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116 PAGES!

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GREEN DAY NATIVITY PLAY

The Strokes

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Kaiser Chiefs My Chemical Romance
Kasabian Gorillaz Bloc Party
Hard-Fi Ricky Gervais
and Ian Brown on Crazy Frog

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for Christmas Day"*

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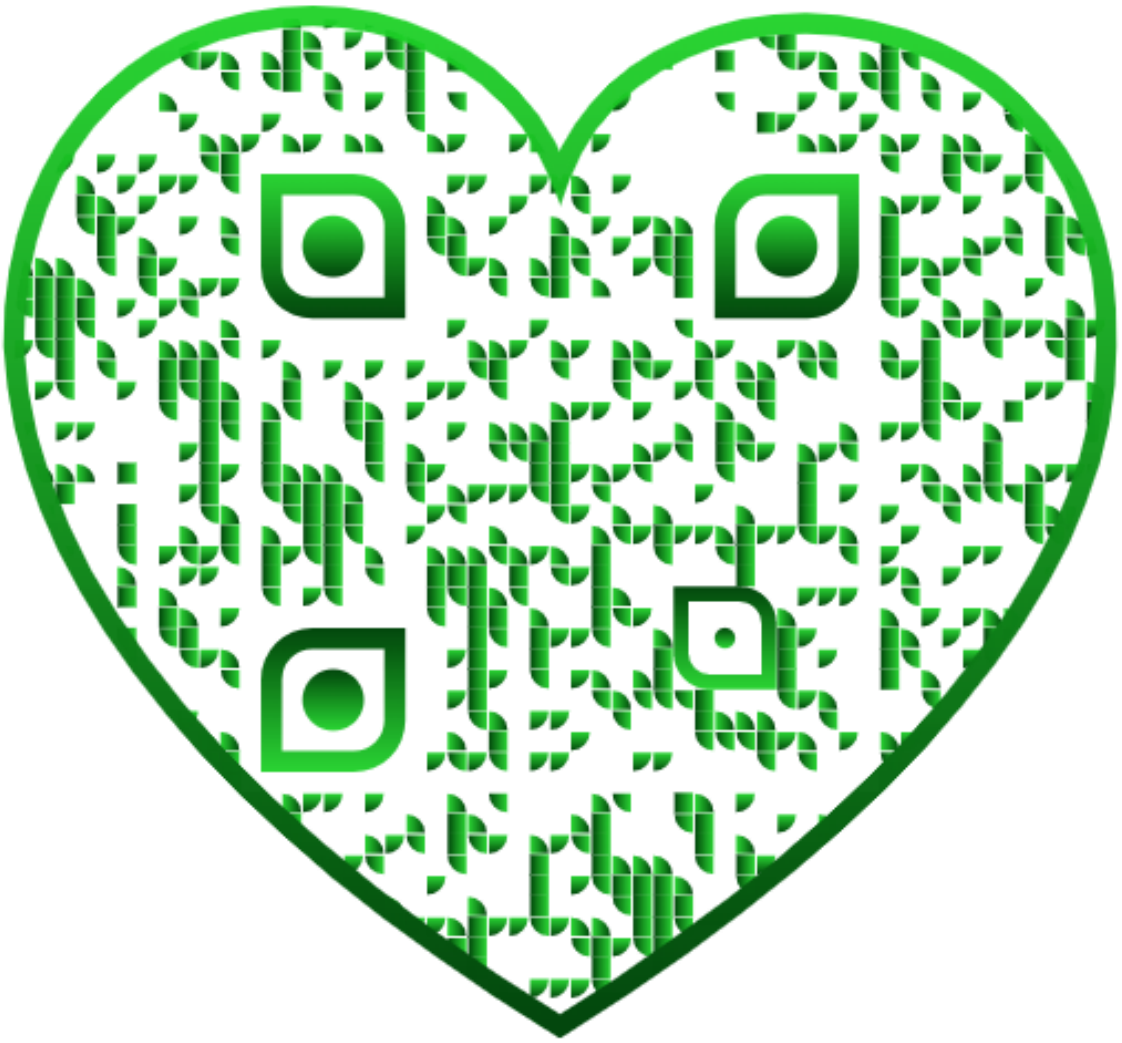

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The White Stripes

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NEWS

The latest from the world of rock'n'roll

Edited by Julian Marshall. Newsdesk: 020 7261 5818

SHOTS

PICS OF THE WEEK

RAZORLIGHT'S CHRISTMAS TREAT

Razorlight have given fans in Winchester a special Christmas gift – with a gig in the back room of a local pub.

Originally billed as "very special guests" on a bill with **Captain Phoenix** – who feature drummer **Andy Burrows**' brother – The Railway became the hottest venue in town as Razorlight played a 15-song set.

"I've played here a million times," explained Burrows, who suggested the gig at his former local boozer, "though usually in front of eight people, so it's been great fun to come back."

With the group preparing to record their second album, the set featured three new songs that have been worked on. However, with Christmas lights, tinsel and a roadie dressed as Father Christmas, there was a seasonal feel to the show, which saw the band play covers of Blondie's 'The Tide Is High' and Culture Club's 'Karma Chameleon'.

"We haven't played a gig this small since the Leicester Charlotte," explained **Johnny Borrell**. "It was great to play this little place. The fans were amazing."

www.razorlight.co.uk

LATEST ▶▶▶ *Uncut Legends: Elvis* reissued in a special pack featuring a DVD of the King's third movie *Jailhouse Rock* ▶ Kanye West nominated for eight Grammy Awards in the US ▶ Blur set to go back into

BET YOU LOOK GOOD ON THE TOUCHLINE

Taking time out from the pressures of finishing their debut album, **Arctic Monkeys** proved they're almost as good at football as they are at making music.

While on their European tour, the Monkeys played in, and won, a football championship against three other teams.

One fan on the terraces told *NME*: "Mixing a really gentlemanly way of playing and strong offensive schemes, they beat all the teams, with guitarist **Jamie Cook** crowned the best player of the gang!"

The Monkeys are now looking forward to the release of their hugely anticipated debut album, 'Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not', on January 30, 2006. See the next issue of *NME*, out December 23, for full details.

www.arcticmonkeys.com

OASIS FINISH THE YEAR IN STYLE

Oasis celebrated a triumphant year last Saturday (December 10) with a headline slot at Noise & Confusion '05 in Cardiff Millennium Stadium, following sets from **Yeti**, **Nic Armstrong**, **The Subways**, **The Coral**, **Razorlight** and **Foo Fighters**.

But the day truly belonged to the Gallagher brothers, with Liam dedicating 'Cigarettes & Alcohol' to "Georgie Best" and Noel commenting that he was "representing Man City, because they'll never ever get to play here".

Oasis have also confirmed two shows for next year at Sheffield Hallam FM Arena on February 9 and 10.

www.oasisinet.com

THE LONG BLONDES ARE PANTS!

Ever wanted to get into your favourite pop star's pants? Well, **The Long Blondes** have made it a lot easier for you.

On their current UK tour, the group have launched their own skimpy item of merchandise loosely based on new single 'Separated By Motorways'.

The perfect gift for that special someone in your life? Well, maybe...

LENNON 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Across the world fans have united to remember **John Lennon**.

Last Thursday (December 8) was the 25th anniversary of Lennon's murder. Fans staged a vigil outside the Dakota Building, New York, where he was shot, while in Liverpool, balloons were let into the sky as a mark of respect.

"He's still with us. His spirit will go on you know," said **Yoko Ono**, who joined fans in New York. "You can't kill a person that easily."

the studio shortly ▶ Franz Ferdinand plan to go into the studio in January ▶ The Magic Numbers and Graham Coxon are to play Carling New Kings gig at Carling Academy Islington on January 12 ▶▶

SHOCK WAVES NME AWARDS 2006 SHOWS

NME AWARDS GIGS: MORE MASSIVE BANDS JOIN THE PARTY

Hard-Fi and The Streets amongst the groups for ShockWaves Awards Shows

More dates have been announced for the ShockWaves NME Awards Shows 2006, cementing next year's line-up as the biggest ever, and featuring the most in-demand bands of the moment.

Hitting London for a fortnight in February, the run of gigs already boasts a red-hot slice of talent with **The Magic Numbers**, **Editors** and **The Zutons** confirmed.

Now, *NME* can reveal that **The Streets**, **Hard-Fi**, **Elbow**, **The Bravery**, **The Cribs**, **Goldie Lookin Chain** and **The Dead 60s** are joining the party which will climax with the ShockWaves NME Awards 2006 on February 23.

Celebrating an amazing 12 months for the band, Hard-Fi's **Richard Archer** has told *NME* that he can't wait for their show on February 13 at London Hammersmith Palais.

"Last year we supported Graham Coxon, and a year later we're headlining, so it encapsulates the whole year for us," he said. "*NME* is the place you aspire to be in when you're starting out. So our career to date has been book-ended by these two shows."

Archer has also revealed that the date will feel like a triumphant return to their roots for the Staines-based group.

"It feels like a homecoming so it will be a really good night," he said.

The frontman also says that even though money may be tight after Christmas, you should save some pennies for the gig.

"It's always worth coming down just to see what Kai [Stephens, bass] says. We did Sheffield recently and there were riot police all over the town and he gets onstage and goes, 'Hello, Cardiff'. That was interesting."

Another artist gearing up for his show at London's Astoria on February 18 is The Streets' mainman **Mike Skinner**, who took the opportunity to big up one of the bands on the ShockWaves NME Awards Tour 2006.

"Arctic Monkeys! I went to see them in New York. That's how music should be," he enthused. "Because I'm running a label I've turned into an Elton John figure, I'm trying to be aware of everything that is going on."

He explained: "I got into the idea of doing a remix and spin on Arctic Monkeys. It's an amazing thing, the kids got on it before the industry had a chance to talk about it. Then they were Number One. That's what I love."

However, following Arctic Monkeys' spectacular and jam-packed appearance at the Carling Weekend which saw the crowd singing along to every song before the band had even released a single, Skinner revealed that he has realised he will have to raise his game in order to avoid becoming outdated.

"I'm a bit jealous. People used to do that for me. I feel like Cher now, I'm getting old!" he laughed.

PATRICIA BRAWN

"Our whole career to date has been book-ended by two NME shows" Hard-Fi's Richard Archer

THE SHOWS: SECOND WAVE

February 11
Camden KOKO
The Dead 60s
The Kooks
Good Books

February 12
Camden KOKO
The Paddingtons
Dogs

February 13
Hammersmith Palais
Hard-Fi
Boy Kill Boy
Duels
Distophia

February 15
Charing Cross Road Astoria
Goldie Lookin Chain
Infadels
The Rifles

Mike Skinner will be there on Feb 18

February 18
Charing Cross Road Astoria
The Streets
The Mitchell Brothers
Prof Green
The Beats DJs

February 19
Charing Cross Road Astoria
The Cribs
The Automatic
Giant Drag
The Long Blondes

February 20
Charing Cross Road Astoria
The Bravery
+ Guests

February 21
Charing Cross Road Astoria
Elbow
The Duke Spirit
¡Forward, Russia!
Larrikin Love

Feb 19 sees The Cribs perform

THE FIRST WAVE – SUPPORT ACTS REVEALED

February 10
Camden KOKO
Clap Your Hands Say Yeah
Dr Dog
Battle

February 16
Brixton Carling Academy
The Magic Numbers
The Concretes
Shout Out Louds
Morning Runner

February 22
Charing Cross Road Astoria
Editors
Richard Hawley
Brakes
Howling Bells

Tickets for all shows are on sale now. Go to *NME.COM/GIGS* or call the NME Ticketline on 0870 1663 663 for more details. If tickets sell as quickly as they did for the tour, you'd better be fast!

Hard-Fi in Hammersmith. Well, beats Staines anyway

GLC will do their thing on Feb 15

Catch The Bravery on Feb 20 at the Astoria

GUY GARVEY ELBOW

What New Year's resolution will you have broken by the time you play this gig?
"Giving up smoking. I did 24 hours once when I was 18 but other than that it's been half my adult life now. I love my cigarettes. Have you seen that advert with all of the kids passive smoking? Don't they look cool? That's really the problem."

People will be broke after Christmas – why should they spend their money on your gig?
"Because everyone leaves with a turkey sandwich, a party hat and a blower. There may even be some leftover Christmas crackers too. I used to make a habit as a kid of emptying the toys out of them before anyone pulled them – little bastard."

BILLY WEBB GOLDIE LOOKIN CHAIN

What NYR will you have broken by the time you play this gig?
"I want to be on the subs' bench for Wales and I want to get less sleep."

People will be broke after Christmas – why should they spend their last money on your gig?
"We'll come round and sort them out if they don't come. That's what Christmas is all about. It gets rid of a lot of anger."

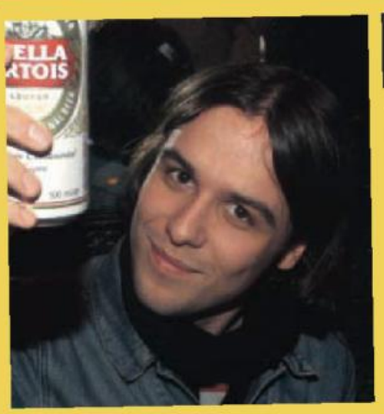
What would your fantasy NME Awards Show bill be?
"You turn *NME* into one big rave – get a Detroit techno DJ in – everyone would have a great time. Think of the spirit of Chicago '88 and you're onto a winner. If you bring it too much up to date you're missing it."

CHARLIE TURNER THE DEAD 60S

What NYR will you have broken by the time you play this gig?
"I don't think any of us will have given up smoking. It's the one no-one can kick."

People will be broke after Christmas – why should they spend their last money on your gig?
"It'll be a good night out – if you can only afford one night out that month, come and see us. We'll have a few new songs and do a few jams."

What would your fantasy NME Awards Show bill be?
"I'd put Lee Perry on there – we saw him play in Japan. I think we'd put ourselves on there and some of our mates, like Kasabian. It would be good to catch up with them."



THE CRIBS GARY JARMAN

What NYR will you have broken by the time you play this gig?
"Mine is not to be where I am now – make sure something changes. So if stuff goes well by the time we do the *NME* show hopefully I won't have broken it."

People will be broke after Christmas – why should they spend their last money on your gig?
"We'll try not to let people down like Santa Claus obviously will. Basically, we're better than Christmas."

What would your fantasy NME Awards Show bill be?
"Huggy Bear and if you had them you wouldn't need anyone else. We would play too – it's my fantasy isn't it!"

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO RIGHT NOW?

"I've been listening to **M Ward** a lot recently. He just writes really good songs." **Meg White, The White Stripes**

"A lot of **Frank Black**! His first two solo records **'Frank Black'** and **'Teenager Of The Year'**, plus a lot of **Pixies** too." **Gerard Way, MCR**

"I'm listening to **Animal Collective** who seem to have gone a bit Arcade Fire which is not a bad thing." **Paul Smith, Maximo Park**

"**Super Furry Animals**' **'Love Kraft'** is one of the most downer records they've ever done. It hit me from the first song. I always wanted to hear them do something like that." **Danger Mouse**

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Beck doesn't look that mangled to us...

BECK GETS MANGLED

Singer explains his completely "reconfigured" and remixed version of 'Guero'

Beck has "mangled" his latest album for a remix record out next year.

'Guero' has been given a going-over by the likes of **Beastie Boy Ad-Rock**, **Boards Of Canada** and **Dizzee Rascal** and is released on January 23 as the souped-up 'Guerolito'.

However, unlike other remix projects, the tinkering began *before* the original existed.

"There were artists I'm a big fan of and this was an excuse to work with them," Beck told *NME*. "We got the remixes done probably about 10 months before the [original] record came out."

Some of the remixes made such an impression, they even influenced Beck in the studio.

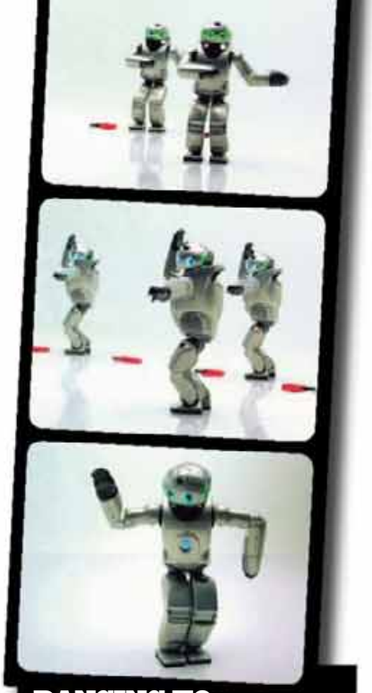
"With the Boards Of Canada remix there were a couple of days where I was thinking of taking the original version off the record and putting that one on," he recalled. "Some of the remixes got me to look at the songs in a new way. It's definitely a weird process, but I don't get too attached to the album versions of the songs anyway. What we would do to the songs live is something akin to remixing the song, I guess."

His first album to be completely remixed, Beck suggested 'Guero''s unique sound could take that treatment.

"I have to admit when I started out I hated remixes," he elaborated, "but they've really evolved into something else."

Having now been the subject of musical tinkering, Beck added that he wouldn't mind having a go himself with a covers album.

"There are some old songs that I'd love to record, songs that are like classics in my mind, that I think have become lost to us now," said Beck. "Just different songs I've done over the years. [Big Star's] 'Kangaroo' I think of as a classic."



DANCING TO ELECTRO POP LIKE A ROBOT FROM 1984

To accompany 'Guerolito', the Ghettochip Malfunction Remix of 'Hell Yes' is released the same day as a seven-inch single. It boasts a video of dancing robots – prototypes of Sony's new toy – created by *Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy* director Garth Jennings. Watch the videos to both 'Hell Yes' and the Epro animation mix of 'Bad Cartridge' on *NME.COM* now.

BAND BITS

THE STROKES

Despite 'Juicebox' being leaked online early, forcing **The Strokes** to move their release plans forward, guitarist **Nick Valensi** believes getting back in people's faces has been good for the band.

"I am happy with where it is now," he said. "I'm ready for the album to come out, I feel like we've been sitting on it for a long time. I'm really ready to let it free, like a caged bird."

'First Impressions Of Earth' is out on January 2.

Dirty Pretty Things

Carl Barât has posted new music online to tide fans over while at work on **Dirty Pretty Things**' debut LP.

A video and new song, 'Bang Bang You're Dead', have been posted on *www.dirtyprettythingsband.com*. The track was one of a handful played live on a recent European tour, and the video contains backstage footage.

DPT are currently in the studio in LA with Dave Sardy (who did the last Oasis album) producing.

Franz Ferdinand

Scottish art-rock heroes **Franz Ferdinand** have spoken about the bizarre circumstances in which they celebrated the release of second album 'You Could Have It So Much Better'.

"There was a party in a bar in Portland, Oregon," said **Alex Kapranos**. "It was what the organisers thought we'd like, a half-naked girl on a bronco eating fire. Nick [McCarthy] was on the table, shouting, 'Turn it up!' He got quite into it."

BRITISH SEA POWER

Brighton-based rockers **British Sea Power** rounded off a year of unusual gigs with a unique date at London club In The Pines (December 11).

"We've been lucky enough to play at a variety of venues this year – a treehouse near Oslo, a shipyard in Barrow, caves in Cornwall," recalled guitarist **Noble**. "Then it occurred to us that we hadn't yet played the most important venue of all – a small London pub."

MAXÏMO PARK

Paul Smith is set to make a guest appearance on MTV2's *End Of Year Special* on December 18.

Hosted by Zane Lowe, the station has put together a panel including *NME* editor Conor McNicholas and Radio 1's Annie Mac. Amongst the subjects up for discussion are live act of the year, best single of the year and best album. The show goes out at 8pm and if you're bored on Christmas Day, it's repeated then at the same time.

FILMMAGIC/PIETER M VAN HATTEM

EDITORS

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Joy Division with the late Ian Curtis (third left); but who will play him in the film?

JOY DIVISION TO RECORD NEW MATERIAL

"I thought it was a great idea for us to do the music to a Joy Division film," says Hooky

New Order are working on new material for the long-awaited biopic of former **Joy Division** singer **Ian Curtis**.

Director and celebrated rock photographer **Anton Corbijn** – most renowned for his work with **U2** – has asked the legendary Manchester four-piece to contribute songs to the film *Control*.

The biopic, which is based on a book by Ian's widow **Deborah**, had been planned for a number of years, but the late singer's family had never been happy with the proposals until earlier in 2005.

Bassist **Peter Hook** told *NME*: "We were asked to do the soundtrack to the film, which I thought was a fucking great idea – for Joy Division to do the music for a Joy Division film – because we've never really done a soundtrack before.

"It may include new stuff. Anton wants to use songs by Joy Division so that each song becomes a video. Like the way the 'Atmosphere' video was filmed, he wants to write videos that appear in the film.

"Every time we get accolades for Joy Division it makes [Ian's suicide] sadder, especially with the film. It's made the whole thing seem more poignant."

It is 25 years since Curtis was found dead in his home. Throughout 2005 New Order have been playing Joy Division songs live, culminating in a set almost entirely made up of Joy Division songs last month, as a tribute to former Radio 1 DJ John Peel.

New Order as they are now

Hooky said the band are considering playing all-Joy Division sets at some stage in the future.

"We have actually talked about doing Joy Division sets and gigs, but we haven't found our footing yet," he said. "We did the festivals and had a bit of time off, but because we've played two gigs recently and had the whole UK Hall Of Fame thing, we haven't really decided what we're gonna do next. If we deem it to be enjoyable then we'll do it."

Casting for *Control* is set to begin next spring and the production team are currently looking for a big screen actor to play the part of Curtis.

RETNA/PIETER M VAN HATTEM

UPCOMING RELEASES

2 WEEKS

DECEMBER 26
Hard-Fi
Cash Machine *(Atlantic)*
There's no turkey sandwiches this Boxing Day for the Staines gents – instead they'll be busy drumming-up business for the re-release of this single from their debut album. The band have divvied up the UK's major shopping areas between them and will be on the streets encouraging the seasonal bargain hunters into the record shops. Singer Richard Archer has apparently bagsied The Marlowes shopping centre in Hemel Hempstead.

3 WEEKS

JANUARY 2
The Strokes
First Impressions Of Earth *(Rough Trade)*
Further to Nick Valensi's restaurant tips in last week's issue, the Stroke wants to let punters know the Italian in Knightsbridge he visited is "cash only, you've got to go prepared". His band, meanwhile, are releasing this, their third album.

Notorious BIG
The Final Chapter *(Atlantic)*
The album is set to feature Biggie dueting with Bob Marley. Again, not only is the Notorious BIG dead, so too, you might have noticed, is Marley. How does that work?

4 WEEKS

JANUARY 9
Cypress Hill
Best Of *(SonyBMG)*
Named after a big road that ran through their 'Hood', the Cypress Hillbillies celebrate almost two decades of being insane in the brain.

Richard Ashcroft
Break The Night With Colour *(Parlophone)*
The former Verve-ster, prepares for his third solo album with this single.

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'A masterpiece' Q
'One of the all–time great albums' NME

Parlophone coldplay.com

Sir Cliff: celebrating the royalties on his umpteenth Xmas single... and the birth of Jesus Christ, of course

'CHRISTMAS MUSIC IS BOLLOCKS!'

Yes, the Yuletide charts are full of the usual cash-in dross. This must end, says special guest writer Father Christmas

"Westlife featuring Diana Ross. Crazy Frog. Tony sodding Christie. You *bastards*. Does nobody realise that, up at the grotto, we have to pipe the previous year's Christmas Number One on a loop onto the factory floor to keep us in the festive mood all year? Do you people have *any idea* how many elves I lose to music-related suicide?

The thing is, everyone's just too fucking *cool* for Christmas. It weren't like this in the '70s – Lennon, Bowie, Boney M: back then yer proper rock icons would happily bung on a bright red tunic and spangly wig and bang out a number about farting grannies and *The Great Escape* (which I fucking *love*, by the way, and I'll personally be making sure it's on again). Oh yeah, in the '70s Christmas *rocked*. Then come the '80s the – spit! – Christians got their Cliff-loving claws back into it and before long the whole thing turned to Blobby-shaped shit and suddenly I couldn't move for elves stringing themselves up in the staff bogs.

For Christ's sake, where's Babyshambles doing 'KillamanLynxAfricagiftpack'? Arctic Monkeys' 'I Bet You Look Good Under The Mistletoe'? LCD Soundsystem's 'Rudolf Is Grazing At My House'? I know you kids are still mental for Chrimbo – I've been breaking my balls getting all these two-tie combination packs and Kate Moss dolls (pull a string and it racks up lines of cocaine while talking rubbish) put together in time – but doing a Christmas song seems to be the credibility equivalent of drinking with Keith Allen or being in Athlete.

"In the '70s Christmas *rocked*. Then the Christians got their claws back into it"

I blame myself really. I tried to get my image changed when 'Up The Bracket' came out, but our sponsors at Coca-Cola went *ballistic*. But we're cooler than you expect, y'know – how do you think we manage to design and manufacture every single present in the space of 12 months and provide guaranteed delivery worldwide in only one night? I'll tell you how. Crack. Chained to the pipe all Christmas Eve I am, that's why I never touch the mince pies. People think Lapland is all snowscapes and frolicking reindeer, but since the yardies moved in to supply the grotto's lucrative "snow" habit it's like South Central LA round here; guns, drive-bys, elves giving hand jobs for rocks... the phrase 'ho ho ho' has certainly taken on a new meaning, I tell you. So how cool is Christmas now, eh? Eh? EH, FUCKERS?! THEN WRITE ME A DECENT SONG OR THE REINDEER GETS A GAT BOLT TO THE BRAIN, YOU DIG?!!"

ARTISTS' VIEW

PATRICK WOLF
"Shall I tell you a secret? I auditioned for the boys' choir in the Mr Blobby song! I almost had a Christmas Number One. But I think Christmas singles are always fantastic."

DONNY TOURETTE TOWERS OF LONDON
"Why are Christmas singles always so terrible? Because The Darkness do them, that's why."

ALEX KAPRANOS FRANZ FERDINAND
"I remember working in a clothes shop in Glasgow one year. It was like water torture. I'm not saying I don't like Christmas, I just hate hearing 'Merry Xmas Everybody' again and again. Bing Crosby's 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas' too, all that stuff really gets my back up."

AGREE? DISAGREE?
Tell us what you think.
Email *letters@nme.com*

SANTA WAS TALKING TO MARK BEAUMONT. PICTURES: SCOPE/DEAN CHALKLEY/ANDREW KENDALL

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Peter Robinson VS

SAM ENDICOTT, THE BRAVERY

As you can see, Sam was delighted to get a copy of 'Hot Fuss' in his stocking

It's Christmas, so maybe it's time to make up with Brandon Flowers

Hello, Sam. You are in a hotel room. What is the bathroom there like?
"Is this actually part of the interview?"

That depends on how entertaining and hilarious your answer is.
"I just need to know whether I'm supposed to start being interesting or not (*thinks*). Let's see. I'll tell you my story from last night! I was in Barcelona and the shower looked like a wet room, but the water actually came right out of the bathroom and into the rest of the hotel room, so I got out of the shower and my stuff was wet."

Do you have 'interview' and 'not interview' modes?
"Yes, I'm normally horribly boring, and I turn on the charm for the interview. Has my shower story charmed you?"

Yes, that's the one to keep in reserve for when you're on *Parkinson*. I am now in Santa mode: have you been a good boy this year?
"Sure! I've been hard-working!"

Will you get a potato in your stocking?
"Is that the same as a lump of coal?"

Yes, but made of potato.
"I see. I don't think I will. But potatoes aren't that bad – potatoes are almost a reward. You can do so much with potatoes."

Since 'An Honest Mistake' none of your singles have gone Top 40 and your album has disappeared. Is this all part of the masterplan or has something gone wrong?
"Well, I think we went to the UK first and started in the UK, and then we focused on the US and the rest of the world after that."

So you used us, then fucked off!
"No, what we're saying is that you guys found us first. We put our stuff online before we had a label, and Zane Lowe found us and started playing the music. So a lot of people heard of us here before in the States. People in the UK are a lot more open-minded than in the States."

I can't get away from feeling like you've used us like a cheap whore. It's like the war. You come over here with your chewing gum and your nylon tights and your 'rock music', and you leave us with an STD.
"You joke, but some people see us as a metaphor for what the rest of the world hates about America – an invading force!"

And how do you feel about that, Sam?
"I think that could not be further from the reality of how we are."

"Some people see us as a metaphor for what the world hates about America!"

If The Bravery put on a Christmas nativity, who would be King Herod?
"*NME*."

We've done a lot to support you, Sam. We've been there for you.
"But King Herod was a powerful man who, I'm sure, did good things too. But he could be terrifying as well."

When you look back on 2005, what amazing events will you remember?
"It was kind of the most amazing year of my life. It was our first time out! In 2004 we were playing in front of 20 people and in 2005 we toured the world."

Can we have a 'hot tip' for 2006?
"Oh, everyone in the UK is always about their hot tips!"

Don't forget, Sam, you were a hot tip this time last year.
"True. Fuck – let me think. I'm bad at new shit. I just call up my cool friends. Have you guys had Iron & Wine? It's a solo artist, the saddest, mellowest music you've heard. He paints portraits of country desperation."

So it's not Christmas party music then.
"His voice is like Elliott Smith. You've got to get the earlier stuff. It's just so difficult to know from one or two tracks."

Some people have that problem with The Bravery, Sam. "I love the single," they say, "but I bought the album and it was horrendous."
"Who says that?"

A lot of people.
"BAH! That's insane (*Laughs*)! I don't know if 'An Honest Mistake' is our best song!"

It is. Do you have another huge song for your next album?
"We don't really have much written yet because we're still touring, just some bits of recording on laptops. We're aiming for it to come out in about a year."

We haven't mentioned your favourite subject yet. Are you ready to enter a fun part of the interview?
"Er... I guess."

In the spirit of forgiveness at Christmas, do you have a special festive conciliatory message for Brandon Flowers?
"(*Stony silence*) Um... No."

Put it all behind you! Be the bigger man, Sam.
"I'm trying."

iFYI

- Sam was eating hotel biscuits during this interview.
- His mother teaches singing at a high school.
- Unbelievably, Sam insists that she is "not horrified" at his vocal 'technique'.

If your mate was to form a band, would you be in it?

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THE NME LETTERS PAGE

EDITED BY: AN ELF

Love something? Loathe it? Then write to the world's greatest letters page

LETTERS OF THE YEAR

Christmas is a time for reflection. So let us revisit your letters and look back on a year that brought us secret ska pasts, indie ruckin', corporate-sponsored charity, Carlish craziness, more indie ruckin', 'big boned' sibling folk-pop, monkey madness, class warfare, and, yup, yet more indie ruckin'. And that was just during our *NME* staff outing. Ho!

But seriously. The bunting may be collapsing around your ears and the turkey might be contaminated with avian bird flu, but before you stomp to the tree and open up another pair of grey socks from that weird uncle who smells of wee, here's a selection of natty gongs for 2005's hottest topics, pulled from the bubbling broth of the *NME* mailbag. Roll on 2006...

Sam inspects the nasty wounds left by Brandon's eyelash curlers

THE HANDBAGS AT DAWN AWARD GOES TO THE KILLERS AND THE BRAVERY

I hate The Killers. They're a slickly-marketed fake corporate rock band aimed at Home Counties girls and the feckless boys who wish to date them. It's like they've copied the most successful songs off one of those 'Best Of Britpop' CDs you find in pub jukeboxes and fed them through a computer which has a microchip in it that's sensitive to the emotional needs and wallets of students doing degrees in Social Fine Art Marketing Chemistry or whatever. Bingo! There's the album and the four-year career sorted. At least The Bravery sound like Mansun. For that alone, they're worth a laugh.

Fred Chops, Bristol (April 2)

...CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY BLOC PARTY AND QUEENS OF NOIZE

I have to agree with Bloc Party about the self-proclaimed Queens Of Noize. Talentless tarts the pair of them. I remember when the bumbling bimbos first started out "DJing". They had a bloke standing behind them, saying which records to play and in which order. Why you're giving these ignorant idiots pages is a mystery to me.

Murray Absich, London (April 30)

...AND PETE AND JOHNNY

Why did Pete need to lower himself to smacking Johnny Borrell? Johnny has precisely a thousandth of the talent, wit and charm of Doherty and has only managed to get where he is by a) riding on Pete's coat-tails and b) saying the most stupid things he can think of whenever you lot wave a Dictaphone under his nose. Let's face it – in 20 years' time everyone will still know who Pete is. Johnny Borrell will just be a minor footnote in the Doherty story.

Stevie Myers, Bedford (September 24)

Yes! In the rrrrrrrred corrrrrrrner! Pete 'Whitechapel Ripper' Doherty! In the bluuuuuuuuuuue corrrrrrner! Johnny 'Queen's Park Crusher' Borrell. What larks! Let's get them together for a refereed rematch and hope they do some serious and lasting damage to each other this time. Maybe they'd break some fingers or something and not be able to smoke fags or play the guitar for a while.

Scott Gibson, Wakefield (September 24)

THE INVISIBLE MAN AWARD GOES TO MORRISSEY

Arrgggh! I can't believe Morrissey's pulled out of the Isle Of Wight Festival. Me and my mates had shelled out to travel all the way down there on the train and now it looks like we'll be out of pocket for no reason. I can only afford to go to one festival this year – and of course it had to involve seeing Morrissey. Now the organisers are refusing to refund my ticket and I'm left with the prospect of spending a weekend in the company of Faithless, Feeder, Razorlight, Snow Patrol, Travis, Starsailor and various other bastions of banality. Honestly, the bill's so utterly mundane that it makes the V Festival look like bloody All Tomorrow's Parties. What a kicker.

Salford Alf, via email (June 18)

The holly and the skivey - Mozzer's pullout caused rage

THE OASIS AWARD FOR: "FUTURE OF ROCK, OR A LOAD OF OLD COCK?" GOES TO OASIS!

After the release of 'Don't Believe The Truth', I've finally lost faith. I just can't understand how a band who took so long to release an album could have come out with these lifeless, boring retreads of past glories. 'Lyla' is the only decent track on there; and don't even get me started on the ones that Liam's written. So disappointing. I really don't understand Oasis' inability to make decent albums at the moment. Are they lazy? Have they lost the knack? Do they even care about the music any more? Who knows. All I am sure of is that my copy of 'Don't Believe The Truth' is going straight to the "listen-twice-and-forget" pile.

Gash, Essex (June 11)

THE ROMEO AND JULIET AWARD FOR STAR-CROSSED LOVERS GOES TO PETE'N'KATE

You recently asked what have Pete Doherty and Kate Moss got in common? Well, they are clearly both media junkies who thrive on public exposure. Pete couldn't give up crack or heroin for The Libertines or for his mother or son, but is apparently prepared to beat all of this stuff for Ms Moss. If Pete manages to achieve this difficult task then I think that Kate Moss may well be crowned as the biggest saviour of modern music. And I never thought I'd hear myself say that.

Guy Poussin, via email (February 19)

THE BROWN-NOSING AWARD GOES TO MAX CARLISH

After watching the compelling trash that was *Stalking Pete Doherty*, I don't think I'll be alone in fearing for the immediate health and future of our Pete. Max Carlish seemed typical of the brown-nosing, deluded fuckwits that Pete's decided to surround himself with since becoming estranged from what seemed to be his true friends (The Libertines). I can only hope that Pete watched the documentary and had what alcoholics call "a moment of clarity."

Brev, Manchester (June 4)

STALKERS!

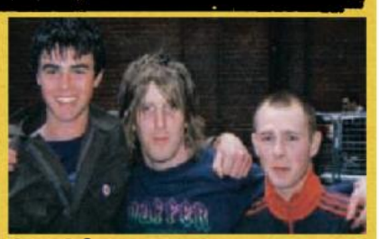
SEND US YOUR PICTURES! Email mypicture@nme.com Mobile text to 88428
Post Stalkers!, NME, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS

WINNER!

CAROLINE, LONDON
"This is me with **Eddie Argos** at the **Art Brut** ULU gig. He was sporting his sexy facial hair."

ALANA, CHESTER
"This is me and my friend when we met **The Subways** at their Wrexham gig. They were simply awesome!"

ARNO SELVINI, BRUSSELS
"This is me and **The Rakes** after their last Euro headline show in Strasbourg, and as they said in their song, we just met there!"



CRAIG & DAN, LUTON
"This is me and Dan at the Astoria before the Oasis gig. We bumped into Andy Razorlight. He looked like he'd been 'Up All Night'."

This generation's Marianne and Mick. Lucky old you

PIETER M VAN HATTEM/GETTY/DEAN CHALKLEY/ANDY WILLSHER

THE 'CAN MILLIONAIRES MAKE GOOD POP?' AWARD GOES TO COLDPLAY

Is anyone else sick of hearing that new Coldplay album everywhere they go? I was in Topshop the other day waiting for my girlfriend and they were playing it over the speaker system – it made me want to push people in front of traffic before cutting my own throat with a Bic Orange. I know it's wrong to criticise them for being bland – that blandness is in fact the very foundation of their popularity – but sweet Jesus – 'X&Y' is *so* bland it actually comes full circle and becomes offensive, much in the same way that the further left wing you go, the more right wing you become. Or something. And to think that there are bands out there that aspire to rip them off! We're entering the last days, seriously.

Ben, via email
(June 25)

THE BONO AWARD FOR CHARIDEE GOES TO LIVE8

I for one can't wait for Live8. Seeing famous people selflessly giving up their time to help those that are less talented, beautiful and rich than them is always really heart-warming. Especially when the beneficiaries are photogenic, shoeless little starving African children. The whole thing makes being in a band look like a big fun club – and this is their end-of-year gang show. I hope Jake Shears recites the Lord's Prayer, Snoop and Macca do 'Ebony And Ivory' and Joss Stone, Razorlight and Keane gather together round Elton John's piano for a touchy-feely MOR singalong. Then truly my life will be complete.

Richard F, via email
(June 25)

Congratulations to Bob Geldof and Richard Curtis for assembling nine gigs showcasing the very shittest music. I'm all in favour of ending world poverty, but do we really have to listen to Razorlight and Joss Stone while we're doing it? And as for Bill Gates introducing Dido – this is a man who has the cash to end world poverty tomorrow, cure all known disease, repair the hole in the ozone layer *and* pay Dido enough to make sure she never sings in public again. The whole of Live8 was a big, self-satisfied celebrity circle jerk and it made me feel more than a little queasy.

Anon, via email
(July 16)

THE OJ SIMPSON AWARD FOR BEING JAMMY GOES TO MICHAEL JACKSON

I can't believe that Michael Jackson got away without some kind of custodial sentence. The man might not be a paedophile, but he's obviously as mad a bag of hammers. For his safety alone he should be in care.

Aidan, via email
(June 25)

THE BERNARD MATTHEWS AWARD GOES TO THE MAGIC NUMBERS

Stupid twats at *TOTP*. The Magic Numbers are a brilliant band and comments about their weight are childish. If you look at the band, the girls especially are pretty and *TOTP* should apologise. No-one watches that lame show anyway unless a decent band is on, like The Magic Numbers, for whom I would suffer through the show on mute until their slot.

Ruby J Tuesday, via email
(August 27)

THE KING MONKEY AWARD GOES TO THE ARCTIC MONKEYS!

I have just got back from seeing Arctic Monkeys in Norwich and OH MY GOD I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! How does a band so perfect, with the greatest songs, emerge from nowhere? The way Alex Turner works a crowd is just amazing. He's got charisma and the band are so tight – you can see what they've been up to instead of doing their homework for the last few years. It's great to have a band like Arctic Monkeys now. There have been some really interesting new bands this year but this is the first one I've seen that you sense has a real future and are going to be the band we'll be talking about for years to come. Hey people, this is the start of something important.

Emma Graham, Norwich
(October 22)

SEND US YOUR LETTERS AND STUFF

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Post The Letters Page, NME, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford St, London SE1 9LS

...AND ANOTHER THING

Any chance of a pullout poster of Paul Smith's stomach?

Miss Maximo, via email
(May 28)

Dan Martin was definitely the best thing onstage at Live8. My particular favourite moment was when Youssou N'Dour, the only African artist on the bill, came onstage and everyone stopped dancing.

Angry Anderson, via email (July 30)

Can nobody release any half-decent singles over the next seven weeks? I'm watching The Ashes and don't wish to be disturbed.

Kris Kinner, London (July 30)

At first, I thought it was my imagination. Now, after seeing the pictures of The White Stripes in the May 21 issue, I'm convinced that Jack White is actually Papa Lazarou. I wouldn't be surprised if he started introducing Meg as his wife Dave.

Rachel, Camelsdale

We can't say anything unpleasant about Jack, otherwise he won't come and fix our toilet – Elf

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CHRISTMAS ON NME.COM

We look back at the year in pictures and news with a selection of the greatest moments from each month in music

EDITED BY: BEN PERREAU

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RADAR

...t the best in new music

Best of 2005

A trawl through some of the biggest Radar success stories of the year – starting with an entire nation going Arctic Monkey mental

ARCTIC MONKEYS: FROM THE RUBBLE TO THE RITZ

December 2004
Nineteen-year-old barman Alex Turner is living at his parents' house in High Green, Sheffield. In his spare time he fronts Arctic Monkeys alongside old schoolmates Matt Helders, Jamie Cook and Andy Nicholson.

January 2005
A close friend of the band sets up *www.arcticmonkeys.com* and posts two early demos – 'Curtains Close' and 'Riot Van', which feature Alex singing in a curiously transatlantic accent.

February 2005
More recordings appear online, including 'Fake Tales Of San Francisco' and 'I Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor'. Fans begin trading the songs on The Libertines' and The Others' message boards.

Then: *NME*, May 28 2005

March 2005
The Monkeys get their first *NME* live review at a sold-out Sheffield Harley. "Nothing less than stars in waiting," we drool.

April 2005
The band's message board now becomes the focus point for fans. "I first heard them when my mates sent me some MP3s," gushes Roxy – a student and board regular. "Alex's lyrics are fantastic and they're really down to earth – they'll talk to their fans."

May 2005
The record company scramble is won by Domino and the Monkeys finally release their debut EP – but 'Five Minutes With Arctic Monkeys' is kept out of the charts when the label forgets to print a barcode on the cover.

July 2005
Alex declares a hysterical homecoming show at the Birdwell Club in Barnsley "amazing – definitely one of the best gigs we've ever had".

August 2005
Carling Weekend: Reading And Leeds Festivals. Carling Tent. Around mid-afternoon. Alex Turner announces his band's arrival to the wider world with the words "Don't believe the hype, Reading. They haven't hyped us up enough!"

October 2005
Second single 'I Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor' races to Number One and in the same week the band also grab their first *NME* cover.

Now: *NME*, October 29 2005

November 2005
Alex tops the *NME* Cool List, leading *The Independent* to dedicate an entire page in its news section to the unlikely star.

December 2005
Arctic Monkeys finish their debut album and prepare for the ShockWaves NME Awards Tour 2006. ***Rick Martin***

KAISER CHIEFS

THEN: Five Britpop-inspired fellas from Leeds with a clutch of great singles under their belts and a Parva-shaped chip on their shoulder.

WHAT WE SAID: "With exuberance, charm and a BBC3 sitcom's worth of one-liners, Kaiser Chiefs are riding high on the post-Franz jitter-pop wave of excellence." *NME*, January 15, 2005

NOW: Friends of the Foos, Live8 champs, O2 NME Rock'n'Roll Riot headliners, globe trotting indie superstars etc etc.

WHAT THEY SAY: "Our proudest achievement is that we've done it despite being 'too old and having used to be Parva' – a comment made by one industry type early on. That, and hearing that Paul McCartney likes us." – Nick Hodgson

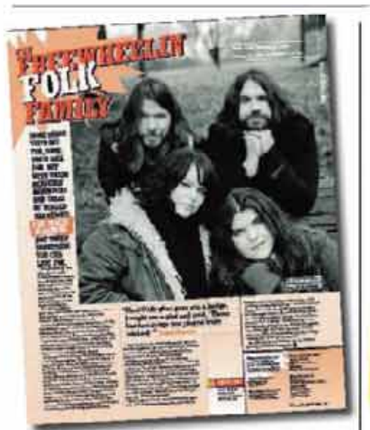
BLOC PARTY

THEN: A breath of fresh air in a London scene more interested in the next toke of the crack pipe than bursting hearts and minds with dynamic indie rock'n'roll.

WHAT WE SAID: "Bloc Party break all the rules. Their very existence should be enough to make rock choke to death on its own clichés." *NME*, January 15, 2005

NOW: Stars of 2005's ShockWaves NME Tour, creators of our Album Of The Year, Oasis baiters and a new reason to believe in the possibilities of passion and electric guitars. Even if they did moan like your dad with piles.

WHAT THEY SAY: "2005 was unbelievable. Headlining Reading and Leeds – we'll take that to the grave – and not burning out. In 2006 we'll mostly be looking forward to new Oasis material." – Matt Tong



THE MAGIC NUMBERS

THEN: Two brothers and two sisters re-imagine the chirpy sound of '60s west coast America.

WHAT WE SAID: "With their heavenly harmonies, The Magic Numbers are truly something you can live for." *NME*, January 15, 2005

NOW: Their all-inclusive swoon-pop party in the John Peel Tent was a defining Glastonbury moment, leading to a Top 10 album and a *Top Of The Pops* walk-out.

WHAT THEY SAY: "Finally getting to play at Glastonbury 'onstage' instead of round a campfire was something else. I don't think we'll ever forget 2005." – Romeo Stodart

ANTONY AND THE JOHNSONS

THEN: Sounding like a curious unison of Nina Simone and chanting 16th century monks, Chichester-born, NYC-dwelling Antony Hegarty was already beloved by Lou Reed and Devendra Banhart.

WHAT WE SAID: "Let him into your heart and you'll be singing his praises to anyone who'll listen." *NME*, March 12, 2005

NOW: We knew we were in love as soon as he opened his lipgloss-smudged mouth. That he scooped the Mercury Music Prize too was a victory for the disenfranchised.

WHAT THEY SAY: "Everyone I ever cared about, every hero I ever had, every dream show I ever played, everything has come at once." – Antony Hegarty

ARCADE FIRE

THEN: Goth-garage septet from Canada who wrestled beauty from macabre subject matter and featured a gimp in a crash helmet.

WHAT WE SAID: "Tissues and tequila, death and danceability: Arcade Fire know how to mourn with magnificence." *NME*, January 15, 2005

NOW: The album had been spinning in our chest cavity for months, but it was their performance at Reading which cemented our love for the audio ambitious ghouls.

WHAT THEY SAY: "My highlights of 2005? Being on the beach in Barcelona at 3am making loud screaming noises, playing with David Byrne, David Bowie and U2 and not faking it."– Win Butler ***James Jam***

WHAT'S ON THE NME STEREO?

Jemina Pet: obviously chuffed to be in our lugholes

Be Your Own Pet
Adventure *XL*
A sneak-peak of next year's debut album sees Jemina Pearl strutting like a mini-Stefani through BYOP's poppiest moment yet.

Ryan Adams
29 *Lost Highway*
Built from haystacks, moonshine and red-eyed hindsight, album three of 2005 sees the prolific Mr Adams hitting the target with some stripped, countrified rock'n'roll.

Matisyahu
King Without A Crown *Sony BMG*
Shalom Motherfuckers! The hottest song on American radio today is this dub-hop classic by the Hasidic Jew Bob Marley. We couldn't make it up!

Franz Ferdinand
The Fallen (Justice remix)
White Label
The best song off 'You Could Have It So Much Better' remixed by crazy French folk who know their daft from their punk

Girls Aloud
Swinging London Town *Polydor*
In which the Aloud savage their own sleb party culture against a pulsating synth patchwork Kraftwerk would be envious of.

Beck
Broken Drum (Boards Of Canada Remix) *Interscope*
The crown-prince of two turntables and a microphone gets scarily mangled by Boards Of Canada for next year's remix record 'Guerolito'.

Roland Shanks
Cutting Teeth *Moshi Moshi*
South London electro artonistas give good jumpy, pumpy bass-tastic singalong fest.

Hot Chip
No Fit State *DFA*
Brain-boshing electro-indie-techno-pop. Think New Order playing early Underworld 12"s round James Murphy's house.

DEAN CHALKLEY

ALKALINE TRIO
Crimson

ANIMAL COLLECTIVE
Feels

ANSTY COWFOLD
An Album Of Lullabies
For The Discerning Baby

ANTONY
& THE JOHNSONS
Antony & The Johnsons

ARAB STRAP
The Last Romance

DEVENDRA BANHART
Cripple Crow

BASEMENT JAXX
The Singles

BLACK WIRE
Black Wire

BRIGHT EYES
I'm Wide Awake
It's Morning

VASHTI BUNYAN
Lookaftering

CAGE
Hell's Winter

CAGED BABY
Will See You Now

CALEXICO /
IRON & WINE
In The Reins

LAURA CANTRELL
Humming By The
Flowered Vine

COCO ROSIE
Noah's Ark

COLDER
Heat

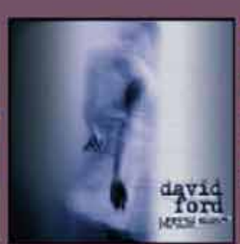
CARL CRAIG
Fabric 25

DIEFENBACH
Set & Drift

DO ME BAD THINGS
Yes!

DUNGEN
Ta Det Lungt

FIELD MUSIC
Field Music



DAVID FORD
I Sincerely Apologise
For All The Trouble...

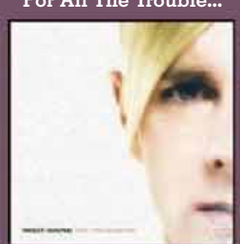
FOUR TET
Everything Ecstatic

FRANZ FERDINAND
You Could Have It
So Much Better

THE GO BETWEENS
Oceans Apart

THE GO! TEAM
Thunder, Lightning,
Strike

JOSÉ GONZALES
Veneer



RICHIE HAWTIN
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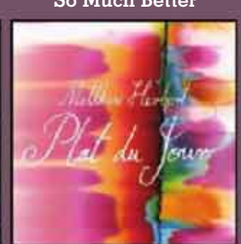

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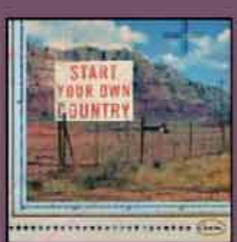

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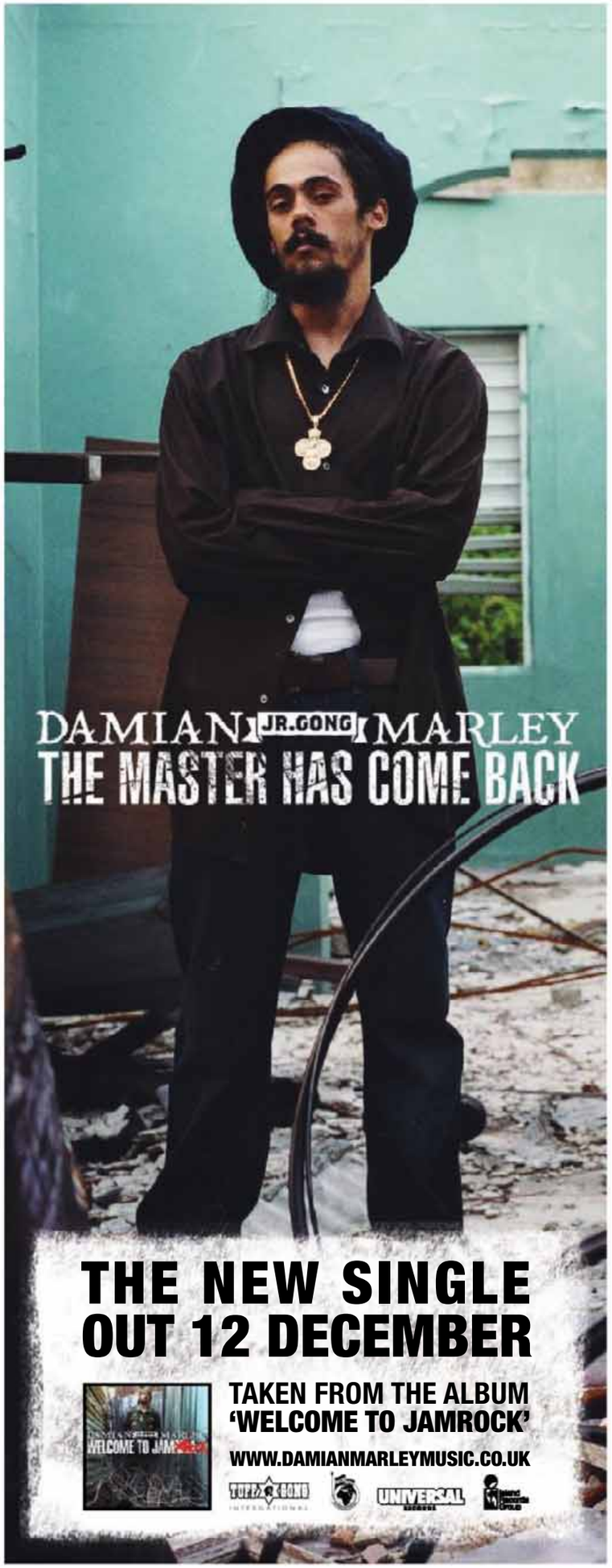
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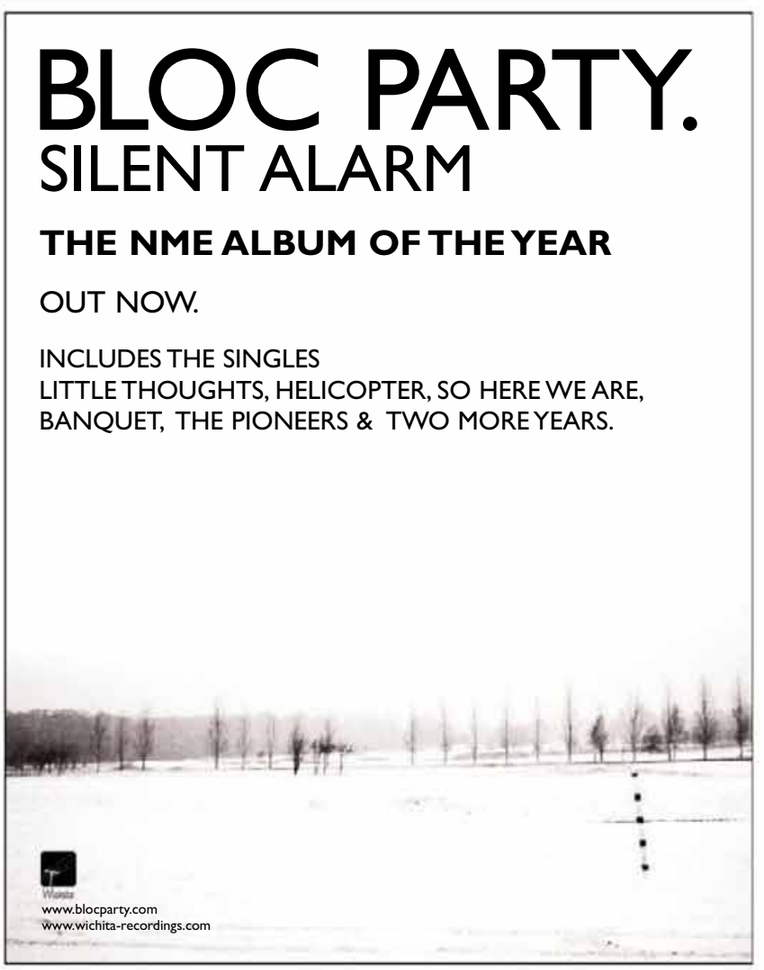
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WORDS: **EDDIE SMACK** PHOTOGRAPH: **DEAN CHALKLEY**

GET BEHIND ME, SANTA!

You've eaten and drunk until you're feeling bloated – now it's time for the King and Queen's speech

The chug of a lonesome train approaching over snow-dusted tracks. A young boy's face lights up at the jingle of a distant marimba solo drifting through the icy night air. The wail of a coyote-voiced Detroit bluesman hollering "*Holidays are coming!*" in wired falsetto. Such, in September ad breaks to come, will be the first sign of the festive season, when Jack White has been promoted to the new face of Coca-Cola's attempt to make small children think they invented Christmas. The White Stripes will actually BE Christmas; soaring through the skies on a flying 1920s fruit wagon driven by bowler-hatted reindeer, dispensing raspberry swirls and tribal devil masks to all the ickle kiddywinks of the world. So, enjoying a well-earned feet-up in Detroit, they should surely be practicing their "yo-ho-hos", and not, say, moaning about other bands nicking 'their' colours.

"Recently so many bands have adopted the red, white and black colour scheme that it's harder for us to stand out," says Jack, Scroogishly. "Green Day, My Chemical Romance… there's plenty of them there…"

Bah, and indeed, humbug. But 2005 has been a multitude of triumphs for the Stripes, from crocodile-infested weddings to continent-quaking world tours: you'd have thought that they couldn't be happier as the year draws to a close than if George Bush declared it officially 1937 again. But in festive cheer as much as career, The White Stripes are never ones to pander to convention.

"All the stuff we've done this year has been bad business," Jack points out. "You're supposed to play America and England and Japan first and do as much press as possible. But we didn't. I think with this album we tried to do as a little as possible, because on 'Elephant' we did so much, so we thought it was a bad idea to do all that talking before we went on tour. We wanted to keep the energy alive for the album as long as possible without being cerebral about it. We have a lot of songs ready for the next record - hopefully we'll be able to do more recording when we get done with all this touring."

"I hope everyone will stop watching reality TV and spend time with their friends" Jack

So: take up your gentle leaning stance against the mantelpiece, polish your baubles to a lusty sheen and deliver, sir, your Christmas Message to the Indie Nation.

"I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas," Jack declares. "I hope that this year all of your readers will take the time off and stop watching reality television for one day to spend some time with their real friends."

"*We* will be watching reality television though," Meg laughs "Jack especially likes to watch reality TV."

"I would never do such an evil thing," Jack barks, in a spat you'd never see between Liz'n'Phil Windsor. "I would also like to encourage people to pay more respect to their elders. That's always been my attitude: what right do we have to have our photo taken or our name printed without paying our respects to people who did it first and did it better, giving a platform for people who pay attention and listen to what we do? My first instinct is to play them someone else's song rather than my own. But yes: Merry Christmas, *NME* readers everywhere."

They've been thinking 'bout their sleighbells…

JINGLE BALLS!

The history of Christmas in rock, maybe

1973

Yule 1973 was famous for two songs: Wizzard's 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday' (aka 'I Wish It Could Be Payday Every Year') and Slade's 'Merry Xmas Everybody' (aka 'It's CHRIIIISSST- MAAASSS!'). At last, pop bands didn't need to be sexy, musical or even literate. All it took was a sore throat, stupid hair and one idea. You will *never* experience a festive period free of either.

WORDS: KRISSI MURISON

PHOTOGRAPHS: PIETER M VAN HATTEM

"This year I'm hoping Santa will bring me a boob job"
Nick Valensi

Fairytales of New York

Q. How do the coolest band in the world spend Christmas? A. With sodomy, rigatoni, ukeleles... and dressed like this...

Exactly how cool are The Strokes? Well, pretty cool.

An example: we're gathered in the reception of Manhattan's über-fashionable Industria photo studios on a cold New York afternoon to meet the band. Casually hanging out in reception is Kate Moss.

Second example: they're the band who not only woke up one morning in 2001 having reinvented rock'n'roll for the noughties, but just-as-effortlessly managed to launch a million catwalk looks and skinny-tied garage-punk spin-offs, inspire the likes of Carl Barât and Pete Doherty to form a band *and* bag a handful of A-list Hollywood dates in the process, too.

Yep, it's official: The Strokes aren't just cool, they're ice-cold. In fact, they're so saturated in sangfroid, they'd rather die than break a sweat, right?

"Kate Moss is here?" yelps Fab Moretti, a Santa costume under one arm, a gorilla suit under the other and a hugely camp vaudeville moustache sprouting from the middle of his face, as the rest of the band screech into the studio. "We gotta get this done and go meet her!" A mere 45 seconds later he's pulled both ensembles on over the top of each other, shoved *NME*'s thick winter coat up his front to serve as a barrel belly, and is standing proudly admiring his genetically-modified festive man-beast disaster of a reflection in the mirror.

Behind him, notoriously-dapper guitarist Albert Hammond Jr casually emerges from the side of a screen wearing a long blonde wig, Santa hat and aviator shades. He's followed by the ever-louche Julian Casablancas and hopelessly-hip Nick Valensi, the former sporting a jumbo-sized and tastefully-angled hat of his own and the latter in – oh yes – pigtails. Only Nikolai Fraiture, dressed in grungey shirt and drainpipes and scowling somewhere under his fake snow-beaten fringe, is upholding the legend of The Strokes by refusing to join in the costume frivolities.

"Can you help me get this snow out of my hair please?" he demands quietly, before succumbing to a smirk as he surveys the rest of his band. "Then let's get on with these Christmas questions."

Yes – and forget the fact that The Strokes' excellent new album 'First Impressions Of Earth' (Albert: "It's so great. It feels so right,") is released next week, or that only a short while ago they had intrepid fans queueing up overnight in the cold to buy tickets for their secret tiny London show – we need to get down to the serious business of talking Christmas. This we do, pausing every couple of minutes so that Fab (who, by the end of the interview has fidgeted so much he's got a beer bottle label stuck on his forehead and a coat hanger tucked into the back of his T-shirt) can do some impressions of Freddie Mercury. Which is all, obviously, much, *much* cooler than it sounds.

WAS THAT IT?

The Strokes give their first impressions of major events in 2005

LIVES

Fab: "We were invited to play Philadelphia but couldn't do it. We really wanted to, but we'd been recording and hadn't played in a year."

Julian: "I watched it. I think it did a lot of good."

Nikolai: "It must have done, 'cos Bob Geldof was recently awarded the Peacemaker Of The Year award."

Julian: "I'd have given it to Nelson Mandela."

NME: Do The Strokes usually spend Christmas together?

Nick: "We always get together a few days before Christmas and have a little Strokes gathering."

Julian: "It's called A Very Strokes Christmas."

Fab: "It's always held at my house. Well it has been for about the last four years. We do Secret Santa and we have a tradition of cooking vodka rigatoni, which is a secret recipe of one of our friends' mum. I think it's actually going to move this year to Albert's house. I don't know why."

Albert: "We're going to film it this year and we're hoping to air it on TV one day."

What, like MTV's *Cribs*?

Albert: "No, it's going to be a little bigger than that. Prime-time."

So where will you all actually be this December 25?

Nick: "Probably in New York with family, girlfriend, mothers, sisters..."

Julian: "This December 25 I will be..."

Fab: "...in your anus."

Julian: "Um, I will probably be, Ummm...I don't know."

Is this your first year as a married man?

Julian: "Yes, it will be my first Christmas with my wife."

Fab: "C'mon dude, you've been spending Christmas with Juliet and us every year for the past four years!"

Julian: "Yeah, but this will actually be our first Christmas *Day* together. So on December 25 I'm probably going to be with some manner of family. I don't actually have any family here, so I'm going to go find some."

Nikolai, you've recently become a father. Are you looking forward to spending the first Christmas with your daughter?

Nikolai: "Yep, first Christmas. I'm hoping it's going to be pretty exciting. I've got my fingers crossed."

Fab: "(*Confused*) Wait, it's your first year with what?"

Nikolai: "My first Christmas with my child."

Julian: "It's not your first one, dude! You had Christmas with her last year."

Fab: "Wait, yeah! She was at the house with us last year, I remember!"

Nikolai: "Wait, what did we do last Christmas?"

Fab: "We were at my house and she was playing with all her presents!"

Nikolai: "(*Laughing*) Oh yeah, now I remember. Sorry, I'm not very good at this. Yes, yes, this is my second Christmas with my daughter."

Are you saying you don't know how old your only child is?

Albert: "I think what he was trying to say is that last year was one he will never, ever forget. It was a truly magical Christmas!"

Fab: "Well this will be the first year that I celebrate Christmas

GETTY

The Strokes (clockwise from top left) Nick Valensi, Albert Hammond Jr, Julian Casablancas, Ian Brown, Nikolai Fraiture: Fab Moretti's new weave fooled even *NME*'s esteemed caption writers

We all know where that tree's going. Nikolai however...

having come out of the closet, so it's going to be a fabulous Christmas."

Albert: "Right, the moustache!"

Julian: "Did you change your name to Freddie yet?"

Fab: "(*Doing the first of many Freddie Mercury impressions*) …'cos we are the champions, my friend…"

What presents did you give each other last year?

Julian: "I don't remember what I got, but someone else might remember, that's the kind of thing my memory's bad with."

Albert: "I got an amp. Ryan [Gentles, The Strokes' manager] got me a guitar amp."

Fab: "This is going to sound really bad but I can't remember what I got either."

Julian: "Didn't I get you the drums?"

Fab: "Nah, that was two years ago."

So have your Christmasses changed much? Have your presents got more expensive?

Albert: "Actually that's kind of true!"

Fab: "That's why we have to do Secret Santa because if we were all as extravagant to each other as we are to one person we'd be poor."

What's the most extravagant present you've ever bought each other?

Nikolai: "I got a boat."

Nick: "I got Albert a Lamborghini. It's true!"

Fab: "Well, Julian bought me that drum set two years ago. Oh and that's right, then the next year he got me an ukelele. It's kind of like a sliding scale."

Julian: "I'm going to get him a tambourine this year."

What are you hoping Santa will bring you in 2005?

Nick: "I'm hoping for a boob job or some sort of plastic surgery."

Albert: "I'm hoping Nick will get a boob job."

Fab: "Yeah, you and him have something going on, right?"

Albert: "Yes that's right, we fucked years ago – circa 2002."

Nick: "Hold on, I've got some weird dejá vu all of a sudden. I reckon if we went back in the *NME* files we could find something with us talking about a boob job. No I'm serious, we've had this conversation before sometime…"

Fab: "Yeah, you're right, you're right. We did!"

Julian, what would you most like for Christmas this year?

Julian: "Umm… probably to titty-fuck Nick. (*Long silence*) Oh God, my mum reads *NME*…"

Fab: "Your mum reads *NME*?"

Julian: "Yeah, she goes and gets it from the newsstand every week. She's got a file of them."

Fab: "Well you'd better hurry up and say what you really want then."

Albert: "Yeah – you don't really want to titty-fuck Nick, you want to…"

Julian: "…it's true, I don't want to do that. Er, what do I want to do?"

Fab: "I don't know, it's you dude! I can't answer for you. I know what I want to do."

What do you want to do, Fab?

Fab: "(*Pause*) Oh man, I don't know, maybe my mum reads *NME* too."

What are you doing on New Year's Eve?

Nick: "Two years ago we rented out a hotel suite and had a really nice party. I'd actually like to do that again. Hey, why don't we do that?"

Julian: "We were just talking about that actually, I was going to ask you guys if that's what you wanted to do."

Nick: "Let's do it!"

Fab: "Oh wait, we could have it at my place seeing as Albert stole Christmas from me."

Albert: "I didn't steal it from you, you gave it to me. You can have it back if you really want but you'll have to cook the rigatoni."

Nick: "So you guys want to get the hotel suite for New Year, yeah? That's what we'll all be doing then. There you go, you were here, you witnessed The Strokes' New Year's Eve decision."

"Last New Year I was vomiting way before midnight"
Julian Casablancas

WAS THAT IT?

The Strokes give their first impressions of major events in 2005

KANYE Vs DUBYA

Fab: "I fucking loved what he said! He said George Bush doesn't care about black people. I think that regardless of what he said or where he was saying it, he's got some balls and I respect that. And you know what else? I think he's a very talented young man as well. I also think that he should continue to produce because the shit that he's produced is really rad. I'd like to work with him."

You must have had some debauched New Year's Eves in the past…

Fab: "Yes. Probably the best was that one two years ago in the hotel. Why? 'Cos there was a bed and a closet…"

Nick: "…And Fab was there."

Fab: "Yeah, I reckon you can figure the rest out."

Julian: "(*Almost inaudibly*) I was vomiting long before midnight."

Fab: "We had two patios…"

Nick: "…and a partridge in a pear…"

Fab: "No, and a bartender and a lot of friends there, great food, great champagne."

Nick: "It was really great actually. You should have been there."

If you could have anyone round to your New Year's dinner, who would it be?

Julian: "(*Immediately*) Nelson Mandela."

Fab: "Dude, that is so weird! That is exactly what I was thinking. I swear to God I am not joking, I am not joking!"

Julian: "He's coming to my house. I don't care if you want him."

Is there anyone else you'd like round?

Nikolai: "There isn't anyone else, they spoke for all of us. Aw, look at that! (*Pointing to Julian and Fab, who are now hugging each other*)."

Fab: "(*Quietly to Julian*) Seriously dude, that was so freaky!"

Ever kissed anyone under the mistletoe?

All: "Woo-oo!"

Nick: "No, I've never done that."

Julian: "That sounds like fun. When you have your Christmas party, Albert, I want mistletoe."

Albert: "That's how I met my girlfriend actually, under the mistletoe."

All: "Really?"

Albert: "Seriously, I'm not kidding!"

Fab: "That's how you met your special lady friend? Wow, that's great, what did you say?"

Albert: "I didn't say anything, I just went (*points up at imaginary mistletoe*)."

Fab: "That's so romantic. Was that before or after she passed out?"

Are there any weird American Christmas traditions we might not know about?

Albert: "Forking over the loot."

Julian: "Sodomy."

Albert: "Nah, It's pretty much the same thing here as you have really."

Nikolai: "You guys have Boxing Day, though."

Fab: "What's that?"

Nikolai: "It's where they make people go out and fight each other in the street."

Fab: "Really?"

Nikolai: "Yeah sure. The day after Christmas they draw white lines on the street and people go crazy like, y'know, 'RRAAAOOR!', boxing each other."

Fab: "You're serious?"

Nikolai: "No dude, it's to do with all the empty boxes."

What were your Christmasses like as kids?

Julian: "Actually me and Nikolai and our parents used to spend them together."

Nikolai: "Yeah, drinking."

Julian: "That was when we were what, 13?"

Nikolai: "I was friends first with Julian and then our parents became friends through us."

REX FEATURES

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Did his parents get you good presents?
Nikolai: "No, they never got me anything, it was me and Julian who used to get each other stuff. The best thing he ever got me was a Nintendo."
All: "Wow!"

What, when you were 13? That's pretty generous...
Nikolai: "Yeah, I went round his house to say, 'Happy Christmas' and in his hall there was a Nintendo in a bag and a 'For Nikolai' tag on it. I wept with joy. Then I played *Mike Tyson's Punch-Out* forever more."

What's your favourite Christmas carol?
Fab: "The one that goes, (*in Freddie falsetto*) '*Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the* (*dropping an octave suddenly*) *to the newborn king...*"
Albert: "'Tis the Season To Be Jolly'. No-one knows that one, right?"
All: "(*In perfect harmony*) *dum-da-da-dum-dum-da-da-dum-dum*'."

Ever considered recording a Christmas song of your own?
Albert: "Like 'Jingle Bell Rock'?"
Fab: "(*Singing*) '*Jingle-bell, jingle-bell, jingle-bell rock*'."
Julian: "I want to do one."

What, your own composition or a cover?
Julian: "I want to cover the *Saturday Night Live Christmas* song. It's called 'I Wish It Was Christmas Everyday'. I like the song, I like the drum beat, I like the melodies, I like the lyrical content."

Is the rest of the band up for that?
Julian: "I don't think so."
Fab: "Let's do it! Let's go! Let's go now!"

Er, just before you go... how would you rate 2005 overall for The Strokes?
Albert: "There were highs, there were lows. **I'd probably give it a 10 and 0.**"
Julian: "So that's – what – an average of 5? I'd give it a 7.1."
Fab: "Hold on, I have the equation right here. Ready? If you divide the addition of all our years by the square root of all of our life expectancies then multiply that number by the times I've had a beer tonight divided by how many times Albert has taken a shit today, then you have the correct number for The Strokes' year. Now come on, let's go and find Kate Moss."
The rest: "Merry Christmas!"
Fab: "Yeah, Merry Christmas..."

WAS THAT IT?

The Strokes give their first impressions of major events in 2005

MODEL KATE IN DRUGS SHOCKER!

Fab: "Kate Moss is a lovely human being and she should not be chastised for doing what every single person in that fucking industry does. It's bullshit that she's being martyred."
Julian: "Yeah dude, coke rules."
Nick: "Who cares what Kate Moss fucking does? It's silly and it's gossip."
Fab: "Do I think it was Pete Doherty's fault?"
Nikolai: "It's not like no-one knew Kate and Pete did drugs beforehand. They got it on film, so what?"

We really should make a joke along the lines of "Quick, Fab, put the mask back on" but frankly, we can't be bothered

10 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT THE STROKES

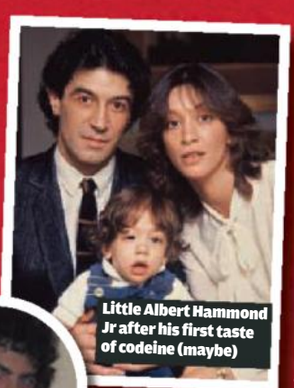
Guaranteed, or your money back*! Ten unbeatable nuggets of pub banter to tide you over until 2006

1 They're big old geeks
Yes, forget their image as über-cool rock'n'roll smoothies, The Strokes run a chess club in New York with alt.country troubadour Ryan Adams. Apparently Albert Hammond Jr is the Daddy of the Reti opening. "It's a pretty rockin' deal," Adams recently divulged.

2 They eat utter junk
When in the UK, taciturn bassman Nikolai Fraiture enjoys indulging in chips and cheese – his favourite type of fast food.

3 They come from noble lineages
Everyone knows that Albert Hammond Sr made a fortune from writing cheesy MOR songs for Tina Turner in the 1970s. But did you know that he also wrote The Hollies' ubiquitous hit 'The Air That I Breathe'? Flint-faced tosspots Simply Red murdered it a few years ago.

4 They have hip friends
The band's drum-tech/stand-in Fab/all round good bloke Matt Romano (inset right) tops up his salary by working as an occasional agony uncle for New York's *ElleGirl* magazine. "Go rent a *Benji* movie and stop thinking about boys!" is possibly the best advice we've ever heard.



Little Albert Hammond Jr after his first taste of codeine (maybe)

5 They have shady pasts
Allow us to debunk a few Strokes myths: Julian Casablancas *didn't* play the kid in the Tom Hanks movie *Big*. Ryan Adams *didn't* get them all addicted to smack when they were recording 'Room On Fire'. And Julian definitely *isn't* going out with Regina Spektor. He's married to a girl called Juliet.

6 They're musos
Guitarist Nick Valensi is so pimp that Epiphone have introduced a model of guitar named after him, the Elitist Nick Valensi Riviera P-94. It comes in antique natural or vintage sunburst.

7 They're not afraid of impaired vision
Albert Hammond Jr's preferred method of getting pissed is to drink shots of Sake through his eyeballs. But be warned – tests have shown that it leads to blindness. And hurts like fuck.

8 Their girlfriends are obsessive
Nick Valensi's fiancée Amanda De Cadenet compiled a coffee table-sized book full of pictures of his half-naked torso, to be called *My Boyfriend, Nick Valensi*. Amazingly, it was never published.

9 They're multi-talented
In addition to being a pretty competent caricaturist and sculptor, Fab Moretti also has a very cool name. It means "one with skillful hands", apparently.

10 They should know better
Julian has a rubbish tarantula tattoo on his arm.

Nick's wandering hands do a little 'research' for his boob job

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* this is sadly not true. But everything else is

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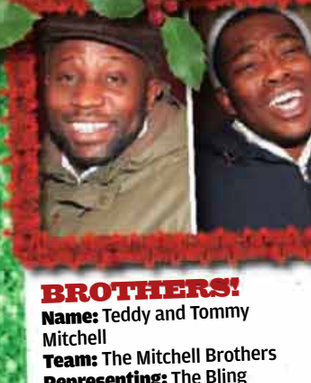
Team: Patrick Wolf
Representing: Bohemia
Poison: Champagne!
Comments: Prone to impromptu toplessness

SACKED!
Name: Frankie Poullain
Team: The Darkness
Representing: Those wronged by Justin Hawkins
Poison: Champagne!
Comments: Competitive

LIBERTINE!
Name: John Hassall
Team: The Libertines/Yeti
Representing: Arcadia
Poison: Jamesons and Coke
Comments: Good sport, but needs to overcome Twister phobia

VETERAN!
Name: Mark Beaumont
Team: *NME*
Representing: You!
Poison: Arsenic
Comments: Thinks he's in Kaiser Chiefs



BROTHERS!
Name: Teddy and Tommy Mitchell
Team: The Mitchell Brothers
Representing: The Bling
Poison: Brandy and Coke
Comments: Have obviously played Hungry Hippos before

You join us as Britain faces a booze crisis. Upstanding citizens are now going on all-day benders thanks to potty legislation allowing 24-hour binge drinking. Just in time then for the only celebrity game-show that matters, the only one Elaine Lordan might have survived – yes, it's *NME*'S AMAZING ANNUAL ALL-STAR CELEBRITY PUB GOLF DRINKING TOURNAMENT!

Last year we split up Busted, secured a future for GLC's Maggot as a Freddie Mercury tribute artist and saved Lisa Moorish from a jail term. That incident also means that we can never return to Soho, so Pub Golf has come back to its spiritual home of Camden.

A quick recap of the rules: like real golf, the object of the game is to keep your score as *low* as possible. Points are incurred for failing to down drinks in each game, and for failing (or coming last) in the series of *Krypton Factor*-esque challenges.

The prize? The coveted *NME* Amazing Bag Of Promotional Shit! This year we have also revived the tradition of getting our own hands dirty, so Pub Golf veteran Mark Beaumont will be competing. The Mitchell Brothers are competing together, but with the handicap of doubling their final score. Oh, and before anybody accuses us of sexism, there are only four females in the whole of indie, and they all had the good sense to say no…

ROUND 1

THE PURPLE TURTLE

Skill game: Salty Nuts In Your Mouth

A simple start; the celebrities must down a round of drinks, and then throw three nuts in the air, catching them in their mouth. It's poor entry for John, who not only fails to down his Jamesons and Coke (he was in The Libertines!) but displays appalling co-ordination (well, he *was* in The Libertines) by failing to catch any nuts, so incurs the maximum four points. Frankie catches just one nut, as does Patrick, and Mark two, but racing into the lead are Teddy and Tommy, with a clean sweep and *no points whatsoever*!

RAP SHEET
Frankie: 2
Mitchell Bros: 0
John: 4
Patrick: 3
Mark: 1

ROUND 2

HOPE & ANCHOR

Mental game: Who Am I?

The return of last year's popular round two, each celebrity has one minute to guess the name of the slightly-more-famous celebrity that is Post-It-noted to their head, by asking a series of 'Yes or No' questions. But! Their opponents may mislead them if they wish! Frankie fails to guess he is Michael Jackson, while John's bad luck continues when he doesn't realise that he is Charlotte Church. The Mitchell Brothers clean up, as Teddy downs his brandy and Tommy guesses in record time that he is Jennifer Lopez. Patrick gets in a bizarre mental tangle with his mate wrongly instructing him that Jarvis Cocker is his favourite pop star.

RAP SHEET
Frankie: 3
Mitchell Bros: 0
John: 5
Patrick: 4
Mark: 2

ROUND 3

HOPE & ANCHOR

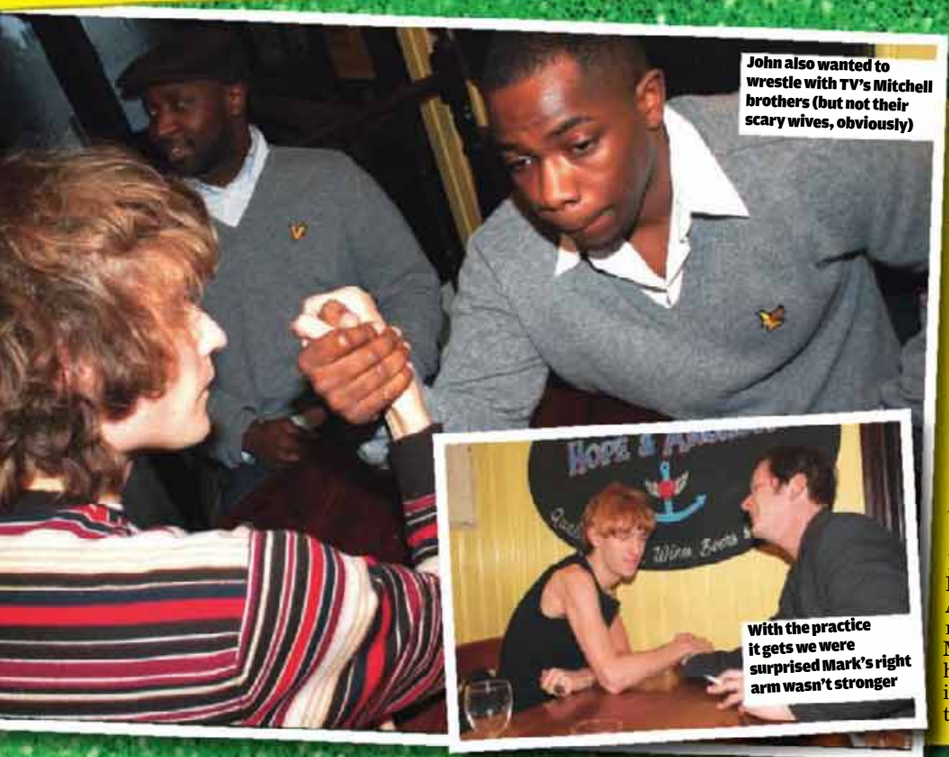
Mental game: Pop Quiz

In a brand new round, each celebrity must answer questions on the subject of each other. Frankie's doing well on the champagne, but no better on the mental challenges, failing to answer any of his three Libertines-themed questions correctly. Mark only manages one correct answer on the subject of Patrick Wolf (plus we had to confiscate his mobile phone). The Mitchell Brothers manage the downing fine, but know nothing about The Darkness, and so incur three points.

RAP SHEET
Frankie: 4
Mitchell Bros: 3
John: 5
Patrick: 4
Mark: 3

E BRITAIN!

What do you get if you combine hippos, Twister and tequila with four bands and one NME hardened drinker? Why NME Pub Golf of course! Be warned London, it could get messy



John also wanted to wrestle with TV's Mitchell brothers (but not their scary wives, obviously)

With the practice it gets we were surprised Mark's right arm wasn't stronger

ROUND 4

LIBERTIES

Physical game: Arm Wrestling

Our first test of brawn; the celebrities must arm-wrestle each other – a point incurred by the loser in each of the three rounds. Beaumont takes on the sinewy Patrick, and loses, only to whinge like a girl that, "he's left-handed". John wins against Tommy Mitchell, while Frankie protests at being pitted against Teddy's biceps. "Look at those!" he snorts, "how is that fair?" Who said that life was fair Frankie? After three rounds, the Mitchells have an impressive three.

RAP SHEET
Frankie: 7
Mitchell Bros: 3
John: 7
Patrick: 6
Mark: 5

ROUND 5

GOOSE & CROWN

Skill game: Tequila!

The final compulsory downing round, where the challenge is the compulsory downing of tequila. In the fine tradition of binge-drink Britain, it's a clean zero for all the contestants, proving that while today's pop stars might be a bunch of under-educated, un-co-ordinated weaklings, they're still fabulous at drinking. The conclusion? Britain is fucked and old people are not safe.

RAP SHEET
Frankie: 7
Mitchell Bros: 3
John: 7
Patrick: 6
Mark: 5

ROUND 6

THE CAMDEN TUP

Physical game: Twister

The first Pub Golf outing of family favourite *Twister*. John incurs *1,000* penalty points by refusing to take part but claws back one for downing his Jamesons, as do Mark and Patrick. The latter pair are eliminated early on and in the final of Tommy Mitchell versus Frankie, Tommy emerges victorious.

Blimey! Those Smarties are huge

RAP SHEET
Frankie: 8
Mitchell Bros: 3
John: 1,006
Patrick: 9
Mark: 6

THE CAMDEN TUP

Skill game: Hungry Hippos

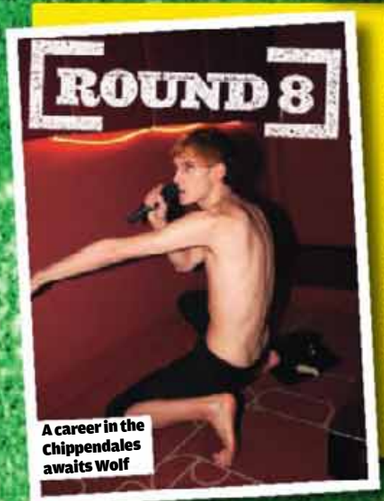
Five games, each contestant sitting out of one, the most balls gets no points, the least gets four. Easy? Well, it is until Frankie declares the game a "bag o'shite" and hurls it against a wall and storms out. Two points are deducted from Frankie for reasons of rock'n'roll behaviour but we're now too smashed to keep score. We think the Mitchells are still in the lead.

RAP SHEET
Frankie: 7
Mitchell Bros: 3
John: 1,006
Patrick: 9
Mark: 6

ROUND 7

Frankie is used to working with cheap novelty items

ROUND 8



A career in the Chippendales awaits Wolf

LUCKY VOICE KARAOKE BAR

Musical game: World Famous *NME* Sing-Off!

A final sing-off to be judged by a swat team of hangers-on. The Mitchells suffer by choosing 'Wonderwall', which although not a difficult song to sing, clearly doesn't suit their voices. John fares marginally better but we don't want to talk about Mark Beaumont's 'Oh My God' by Kaiser Chiefs. The show is stolen by Patrick. If he wasn't sure that his falsetto rendition of Celine Dion's 'My Heart Will Go On' had already won, he artfully puts his knee on the table and knocks everybody's drinks over, then flings off his top. The scoring's gone well to cock by now but we're pretty sure the Mitchell Brothers are comfortable winners. Congratulations! See you next year.

RAP SHEET
Frankie: WALKED
Mitchell Bros: 6
John: 1,006
Patrick: 9
Mark: 7

WINNER!

The winners: erm, don't spend it all at once, chaps

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?

- **Ant & Dec have it easy**
- Frankie Poullain has unresolved competitiveness issues
- **White men can't twist**
- With better delivery, 'My Heart Will Go On' could have been alright
- **Hungry Hippos can incite violence**
- You can get a bottle of champagne in Camden for under £15
- **Pub Golf is a career highlight**

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WORDS: ANDY CAPPER

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW KENDALL

WHAT'S UP, DOM?

He's been dropped by his label, dumped by his friends and hasn't changed his pants for three days. But The Others' Dominic Masters is still doing it for the kids

February 2005: The Others' first (and maybe last?) *NME* cover

Two years ago I started hanging out at the Rhythm Factory just around the time that The Libertines were imploding. There were all these new, exciting bands coming out of London and for some reason (ie they wanted to hang out at Pete Doherty's flat) they were all meeting up in the East End. The Paddingtons, Neil's Children, Selfish Cunt, The Cazals, Thee Unstrung: all these bands were friends, did gigs with each other, helped each other out and partied together. At the centre of the scene were The Others and their singer Dominic Masters. The Others were different to most bands. Apart from the famous guerrilla gigs (on a tube train, in the lobby of the BBC, on the dodgems at the Carling Weekend: Leeds Festival), The Others were different because of the way that they interacted with their legendarily loyal fans. Nicknamed the 853 Kamikaze Stage Diving Division, Dominic kept in constant contact with them, organising parties at his flat after gigs, often carrying two phones and a Blackberry to handle all the calls and texts. He also helped some of the bands in the scene get record deals.

There were also a lot of drugs around the Rhythm Factory scene – and Dominic Masters was the most outspoken user, advocating hash, coke and crack use in a notorious *NME* interview. Rumours had been going around for a while that Dominic was losing the plot, though: that his drug habit was making him increasingly paranoid. First of all he cancelled a photoshoot with *NME* photographer Andrew Kendall at short notice after Andrew had travelled up to Manchester to take his picture. Then I called him in the middle of The Others' latest tour for a simple catch up and find out what was happening with the band. Instead, this happened…

SAM JONES/ANDREW KENDALL

"We're the only band that's ever scored coke in Osaka. Does that make me a rock'n'roll star?" Dominic

Hello Dom?
"Hello Andy? Can you hear me? I love you and you love me yeah? Just tell me, is this going to be trouble? Will it be a troubled article? You know me Andy, we've partied backstage at lots of things, drank together, taken cocaine together, so I'm talking to you as a friend. Is this going about putting the knife in or are we just going to go ahead and do this as mates or what?"

We just want to know how it's been this year for The Others…
"Well I'm cool with that, but I just want to know if we're going to do this as friends or what?"

Sure. I like you too Dom. I'm worried about you. The last time I saw you was in east London and you said a brief hello, but then you started running up towards Commercial Street yelling behind you, "Can't stop Andy, I'm off to buy some crack!" So how are you? Are you still doing it a lot?
"Well just give me some questions and we'll try and get on with this."

Well I just did: are you still doing crack a lot? I mean, are you OK?
"Just give me some questions and we'll try and get on with this…"

Well, how've you been doing?
"Just give me some questions and we'll get on with this."

Er, well, are you OK?
"Yeah I'm OK, things are going pretty well. We went to Japan [to play the Summer Sonic festival]. We played to 20,000 people in Osaka then played to 30,000 people in Tokyo. We were the first band on the main stage. We played to 11 people, sorry, we played at 11am to 30,000 people. Oasis headlined and pulled about 60,000 and we pulled 30,000 people at 11am."

How was the experience of touring Japan?
"Japan was strange. It was really hard to procure cocaine. We managed to get hold of 0.4 grams of cocaine in Osaka which is about half a gram."

How much was it?
"Hang on (*Shouts to someone in the background*). Hey! How much did we pay for that coke in Osaka? It was about 12,000 Yen [around £60].

Saturday May 22, 2004: The Others' now-legendary gig on a tube train

You might think that's a rip-off, but we're the only band that's ever scored cocaine in Osaka. It was good coke Andy, it was really good."

Is there a good story behind how you scored it?
"Well, we'd run out of hash, so I really needed something. Some Japanese girls introduced us to this Brazilian guy and we paid 12,000 Yen for 0.4 grams of cocaine. We went back to the hotel and I was very excited. Not much of a story but we were the only band to score in Osaka. I don't know if that makes me like a rock'n'roll star or not."

Me neither. Anyway, how have you dealt with some of the negative press you've had?
"Oh no, it's all been positive the whole way. Y'know, I've got to with these answers in that kind of way. You know what the answer is to that question."

"I've had the same pair of pants on for three days – but I'm looking at changing them tonight"

What happened with the deal with Mercury?
"OK, this will take a while. We had four singles and one album which was our 18-month contract. We toured the UK which we felt very privileged to do. We went to Japan and we went all over Europe which we were very proud of doing. Then what happened was that the guy who signed us… (*messing around as Dom has to move room*) Andy, can you still hear me?

Yes.
"We went back to Mercury and the guy who signed us got sacked."

How did you feel about that?
"Well you know me Andy, we always plan on things like this happening. We knew something wasn't quite right at Mercury so me and Johnny ended up speaking with the manager, went out and started another tour. Luckily, two labels have come in."

Who's that?
"Andy. I love you and you love me. We've done drugs together, we've partied together but I'm dealing with contracts here yeah? And I'm not going to cause any trouble."

It's no big deal. The question we need answering for all your fans who may have heard about the deal is are you going to carry on?
"As much as I want to, I can't tell you the name of the label yet. The next single may be out in February and the album's out in April and everything will be cool. We're strong. We might hate each other, but we're strong."

How's Johan [Dominic's transsexual boyfriend]?
"He's just been to Thailand to get collagen injections to make him look more like a woman."

Can we talk about the sex change?
"Aww. Andy, I like you more than you like me. Just be honest. That's cool."

Umm, well would you say that your relationship with Johan has been helping you through the last few months?
"Aww, Andy I love you, that's nice. That's really cool. That's really nice."

Johan must be very understanding.
"Aww, Andy you're great. If you'd gone through what we've gone through, having an other half to support you helps. Johnny [Others, bassist] has his bird, I've got Johan."

Is Johan OK? Where did he get the collagen injections?
"In Thailand."

No, where in his body?
"In his cheeks."

Does he need it? I thought he was a bird the first three times we met.
"Oh, that's very nice of you to say. I always said he doesn't need to change his body, but it's his decision."

Have you seen your friend Pete Doherty recently?
"No."

I suppose he has a different gang these days?
"What do you mean by different?"

Well, Kate.
"I saw Pete at a festival recently and it was nice to see him."

What do you think he thought of that song you wrote about him?
"I don't know what song that is."

'Stan Bowles'?
"Well I'm sure Peter was happy about the fact that a band had written a song about him that was a social comment about him."

You've always been quite outspoken about drugs – what do you think about the way Pete and Kate were written about?
"Well you know what it's like, Andy. They build you up and they knock you down."

What did you think about Donny Tourette calling you the least cool person in rock'n'roll in *NME* recently?
"Well, I think it's lovely. I'm obviously irritating him and that's good. You know what it's like. You've got to take the ups with the downs. I think it's always best to be honest. I don't want to lie to my fans. I don't want to be Kaiser Chiefs, I don't like bland songs, I'm not boring. If I was boring and we wrote bland songs and we didn't get up to much and I kept my mouth shut then maybe… the main thing for me is our fans. We love them and they love us."

Are you still doing your A&R job on the side?
"Well I helped that band The Fold sign to 679, The Streets' label. I got Thee Unstrung a deal. I got The Paddingtons a deal and I didn't make any money out of it."

So why did you do it then?
"I dunno, it's got to be love. That's what keeps the whole thing going."

And the drugs as well?
"Well, my thing's always been to smoke hash, do a little bit of coke every now and again and, if I'm lucky or I've had a bad day or I'm feeling depressed I'll get some rocks [of crack cocaine]. I have a regulated approach to taking drugs. It's all about keeping working at the same time."

Have you managed to buy a new outfit yet?
"(*Laughs*) No. I'm still wearing the same jeans and the same trainers."

I hope you're keeping clean.
"Well yeah, I'm always washing my clothes. Johnny brings 14 pairs of pants on tour so he's always got a fresh pair. I've got 14 pairs of socks, but only one pair of pants."

How long have you had them on?
"Well I've had these on for three days. I'm looking at changing them tonight after a successful gig in Manchester."

What are your future plans for?
"All I want to do is to keep this thing going for as long as possible, maybe 10 or 20 years. That's what it's about."

What's it about?
"It's about community, it's about looking after each other, it's about making sure kids have somewhere we can party afterwards."

And you want to do this for as long as possible I suppose?
"Well wouldn't you?"

Well, not really, no.

JINGLE BALLS!
The history of Xmas in rock, maybe
2003
Gary Jules releases 'Mad World', the single most depressing Christmas record ever. Its appearance on Christmas *Top Of The Pops* leads to a British suicide epidemic that claims 300,000 lives. 'Wasn't that brilliant?' beams *TOTP* hostess Fearne Cotton, her dead doll's eyes darting listlessly like oily turds in a storm-tossed sewage outlet.

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WORDS: DAN MARTIN PHOTOGRAPHS: SAM JONES

"I've tried to fuck Serge loads of times!"

Serge: "Would you care for a little stiffner?"

Tom: "Well, I shouldn't do...but seeing as it's you..."

NME: "Fer Christsake lads. Get a room!"

Christmas is a time for booze-related bonding. So we got boyhood pals Serge and Tom from Kasabian drunk and made them examine what makes their relationship tick. It's a heartwarming tale of communal showers, wizard hats and man-on-man loving...

Thirteen years ago there was a school in Leicester, there was a boy called Serge, a boy called Tom, and there was a games lesson. Aged 11, Serge Pizzorno was a talented young striker, and Tom Meighan was in goal.

"He fucking nutmegged me on the football field," says Tom, "he put a hat-trick past me. *And* he was about 4'3"."

Serge: "My old man gave him a lift home, and he wouldn't stop talking, and from that moment on he's not stopped talking."

Did you like him?

Serge: "To be quite honest, he fucking bamboozled me, like that game on Ceefax. I've never met anyone in my life..."

"...that's a *shit* game!" thunders Tom. "Ceefax is rubbish. Ban it! Fucking ban Ceefax. It's crap, it fucking lets you down."

"Bollocks mate, say to any American, 'One day, your country'll be developed enough to have Ceefax, 'cos until then, you mean *nothing*'. What was I gonna say? At a fucking young age you have mates, but nobody had made me sit back and go WHAT THE FUCK'S HE ON? What planet? And what fucking solar system? He was 11. At 11, you don't fucking know anything, you can't hang around with anyone that's fucking wearing good trainers. And I saw that and went, 'He's fucking insane', but there was something about him... something."

Within minutes, the pair became inseparable. Serge's dad had raised him on The Rolling Stones and Tom came from a Motown-loving family, but as the years rolled on the pair bonded over rave tunes by Prodigy and Altern8, wearing T-shirts that said things like 'Just Had LSD' and the Superman logo with an 'E' instead of an 'S'. Then Britpop rolled in and changed their lives – and like most teenage boys for those few years, they formed a band with their mates Chris Karloff and Chris 'Dib' Edwards. Quite obviously, the hyperactive Tom was the singer and the exotic, now-taller Serge, was guitarist. It was a classic twosome. That band would merge all of those influences together, sprinkle a bit of Sabbath and a bit of Pagan chanting and, as Kasabian, eat the world, leading Serge Pizzorno and Tom Meighan to usurp Pete'n'Carl as Britrock's premier Best Mates. Today we've gathered in an expensive private members' club in London's fashionable west London to celebrate the fact.

"I'm not one of those guys who'll pull a poem out" Tom Meighan

So who is the boss?

Tom: "He's the boss. Yeah he's the boss, massively. He's the boss. He's the boss!"

Serge: "It's like that [gritty 1995 Britcop drama] movie *ID*. I do the reading and writing, he beats people up for me."

Tom: "I don't beat people up!"

Serge: "In a psychedelic way!"

Tom: "Oh, in a psychedelic way, I know what you're saying."

Serge: "In a psychedelic way."

Tom: "In a psychedelic way. He's the commander... no he's the boss. And I'm just fucking Merlin, with a fucking wizard's hat on. It's me and him and, we've known each other since we were junior kids, man. In the same village. That's what makes us. We lived with each other for fucking four years when we got the farm, y'know."

Serge: "What's fucking weird is, for two years we slept in the same fucking bedroom as each other, all four of us did."

Tom: "That's weird, innit?"

Serge: "Until one of us started snoring – I'm not gonna name any names – somebody would start wearing cowboy fucking long johns to bed, and started snoring, then we all broke up. But it was still a bit weird."

So you've seen each other nekkid?

Tom: "Oh fuck yeah. Smelt everything as well. We've lived with each other, so we know everything."

Serge: "When we played Leicester University, they had communal changing rooms."

Tom: "They call them paedophile showers, don't they? You know the film *Kes*? It's fucking sick. YouknowhatImean, I'm not saying I done anything about it, but '60s showers, it's a bit *dirty* innit? There's something a bit weird about it, y'know like communal shower, you feel a little bit like, *interrogated*."

Serge: "'I'm feeling a bit sore.' 'Put some toothpaste on it'. That's a bad idea, youknowhatimean?"

Tom: "Communal showers should be banned. Ban them altogether 'cos they're horrible. They belong in the '60s mate, it's fucking disgusting. Reminds me of *Kes*, the film *Kes*. I'm not saying I'm scared or anything, but they belong in the '60s with that film *Kes*."

Do you get competitive with each other?

Tom: "Nah man, not really."

Serge: "We're more like sisters. It's not like fucking Pete and Carl or anything like that, it's real life. Look at this guy, he's like my sister."

Tom: "I'm not gonna come out and read a poem and go, 'Why, the leaf fell down off the holly tree, and I drank some more wine, and we went, "Chip, chip, chip, away!" and Peter and Carl flew away!'. I'm not one of those guys who's gonna pull a poem out 'cos they think it's romance y'know? We're not like that. 'Fly away Peter! Fly away fucking Carl. Come back Peter! Come back Carl!' We're not like that, y'know? Obviously they did love each other, y'know, respect man. You look at that and you just think fuck, they vouch for each other, it's horrible, and I'd do the same for him, and I can see where they're coming from. I can vouch for any of these."

If one of you two did a Doherty, what would happen?

Tom: "Oh they'd get beat up. One of us'd get beat up."

Serge: "No-one'd even know about it because we'd keep it together and sort it out. It'd be done within the group, *y'knowhatImean*? And no-one else'd know about it. You'd never know."

So maybe it already has!

Tom: "You don't know a *lot* of things!"

Serge: "We've done alright, but from what we've been through man, we wouldn't even be here. The whole point, and I'd say it's a primal thing, the band's only there 'cos we're together. You're with each other all the way, it's the most powerful thing. Individually we're all very different and maybe if there wasn't a band we

Serge (far left) and Tom raise a toast to their first-born, Noeliam

"It's not like Pete and Carl – we're more like sisters" Serge Pizzorno

all wouldn't hang around together, but when we're on that stage and we're fucking brothers together, it's the strongest thing, and there ain't many bands that can actually look in their bass player's eyes or their drummer's eyes, or their singer's eyes and say, 'I'd fucking *die* for you', and that is the power we have, and that is why we're still making records…. Although we've only done one…"

At this point, Tom gets up to go to the toilet, so we use the opportunity to quiz Serge on Tom's most annoying habits.

"I tell you what it is, with alcohol, or tiredness, there's a dark hour that Tom has when he's had a few. He has a dark hour when we're having a great time, and there's an hour when his eyes turn funny, he flips, and you just get out of the room. But I think we all have that. Everyone fucking annoys you in some way, but as friends you've just got to give each other that; as friends, you accept it. That's probably one of the biggest differences we have. What I've found being British and travelling round the world is mates here, we accept each other's flaws, and I think in most other countries it don't happen so much. You've always got one mate that's a fucking knob, but you love him, and if he weren't your mate, you'd think he was a knob. We're probably the only nation that has that, you just accept people's fucking twattishness, and I think we've got that big time. Because I know for myself and the mates I've got."

Tom arrives back from the toilet, highly amused by a piece of toilet graffiti in the expensive members' club's gents.

Tom: 'Have you seen the wall in the toilet? It says 'CUNTS, ALL OF YER!' That's classic art, that's art, that's fucking modern society. That's real. Talk about fucking life, that's *real* mate. That's real as. It don't get any realer than that does it?"

What annoys you about Serge, Tom?

Tom: "I don't know, what annoys me about him?"

Serge: "Size of me knob."

Tom: "Fuckin' hell! But it's true. No, no, no, look at him man, nothing annoys me about him, nothing man, nothing annoys me about none of the band, or Serge."

Serge: "Every fucker's annoying."

So if he was a woman, would you fancy him?

Tom: "Oh yeah, massively!"

Serge: "Look at him. He's the singer in a band, he wears good clothes, and also, he'll come home pissed right, and you've stayed in, and I don't give a fuck what anyone says, right, women love that. It turns them silly, they dream of some fucking idiot that they can abuse. And then you get to make up. So yeah, all over it. Especially in them plimsoles."

So has there ever been a moment where all this latent, manly respect you share has spilled over and you've…

Serge: "…kissed?"

Tom smirks.

Tom: "Oh yeah. I've tried to fuck Serge loads of times."

JINGLE BALLS!

The history of Xmas in rock, maybe

1963

The Ronettes release 'Frosty The Snowman', produced by Phil Spector, probably pop's most Christmas-friendly producer. He would go on to release classic Xmas albums like 'A Christmas Gift To You' and to further spread the Christmas spirit by allegedly shooting a woman in the head because she wouldn't nosh him off.

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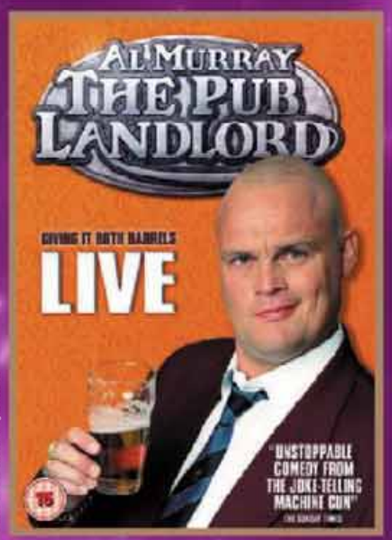

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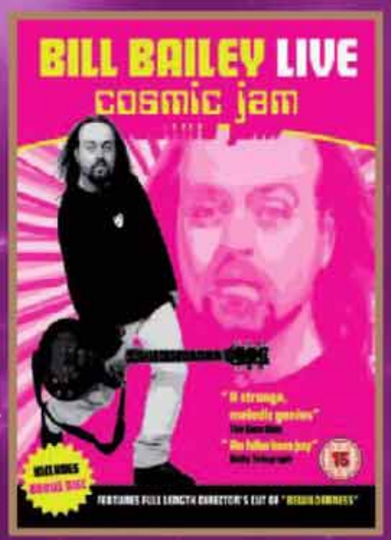
Al Murray The Pub Landlord
Giving It Both Barrels Live
DVD



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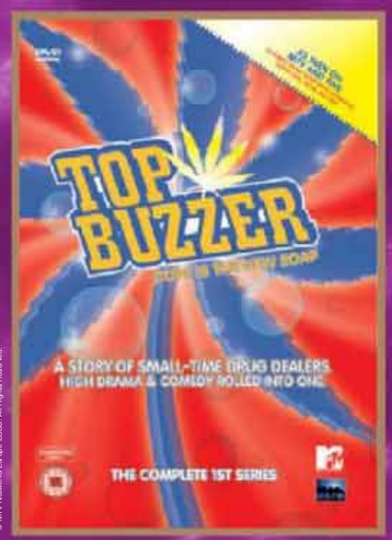
Bill Bailey Live
Cosmic Jam
2DVD



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Top Buzzer
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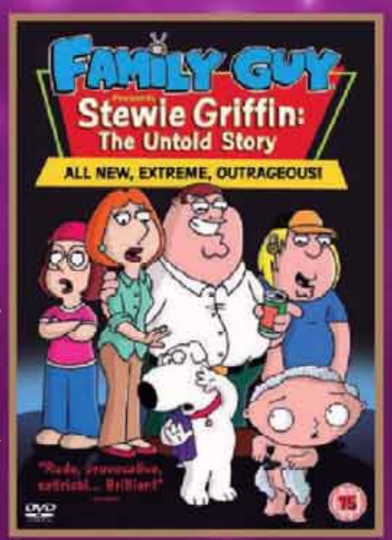
2DVD



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Family Guy Presents
Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story
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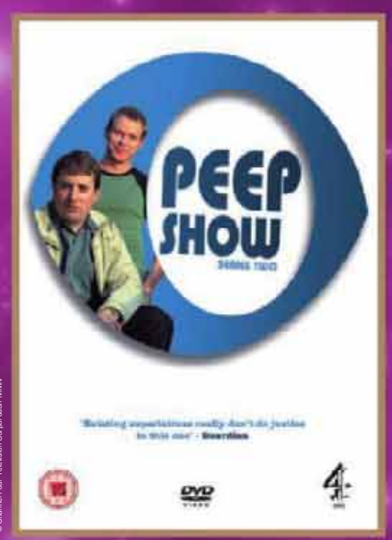
European Invasion
The Complete 3rd Series: 2DVD



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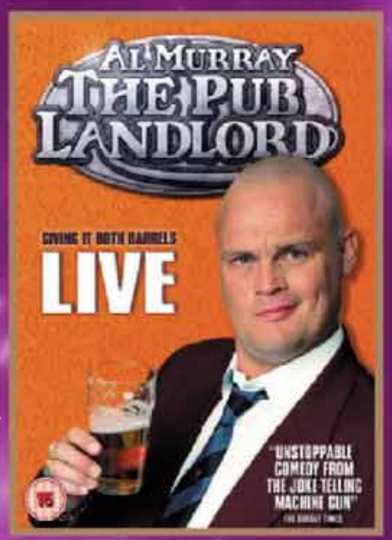
Top Dog for Christmas Gifts



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Al Murray The Pub Landlord
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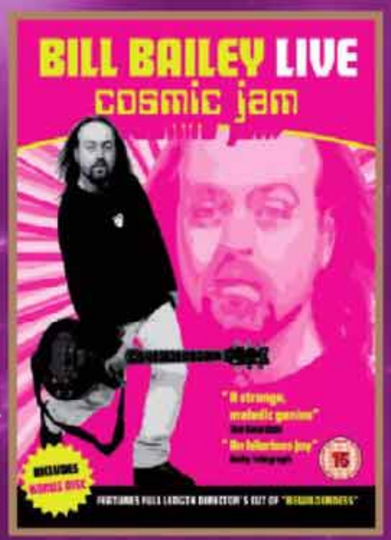

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Bill Bailey Live
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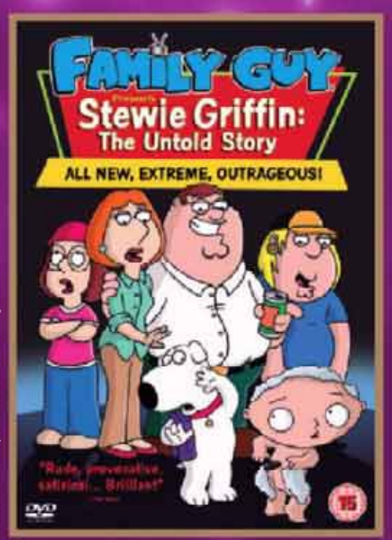

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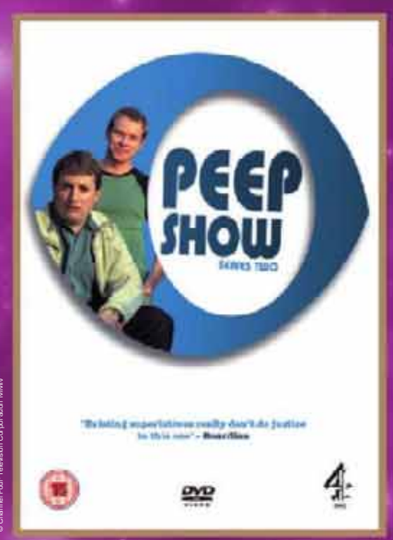

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PART 2

Christmastime for heroes

RUSSELL, MURDOC, NOODLE AND 2D GORILLAZ
Gorillaz in the mistletoe

What's been the best thing to happen to you during 2005?
Russell: "The Manchester International Festival. Without a doubt. To see all of the guests and collaborators from the 'Demon Days' album re-create the music was just incredible. That concert was so much bigger than any one individual or group. So having Shaun Ryder, Ike Turner, Bootie Brown, Neneh Cherry, Roots Manuva, De La Soul… all these people playing alongside a kids' choir, a gospel choir and a full orchestra! The impact was incredible."
Murdoc: "Even though I was only a little bit tipsy, the visuals behind the band looked fantastic, really colourful. I mean, I dozed off for a while, but what I saw looked ingenious."
Noodle: "The Chinese zither-playing added such a large amount visually and musically to the track 'Hong Kong'."

What's your biggest regret of 2005?
Russell: "Not really a regret, but the death of Ibrahim Ferrer was a great sadness. A really wonderful soul, generous with his music and a shining light who's sorely missed. Having said that, I kind of feel that his spirit, his music... it's all out there now. When the musicians closed the set with 'Latin Simone' at the Manchester shows, footage of Ibrahim singing was displayed in the background. It was such a perfect way to end the show with someone who musically really just shone. A very graceful and poignant way to put the message across of the lasting and positive impact of music."

ELLIS PARRINDER/PIETER M VAN HATTEM

Which member of the band have you come closest to hitting this year and why?
Murdoc: "You know the answer to this one already. I'll smash anyone in the chops for 50p, but it's always good to lash out at our singer. Come rain or shine, I never seem to get bored of it. You can call me a bully, but fuck, I like it."

Best new band you've heard in 2005?
2D: "Probably Arctic Monkeys. I know everyone's going to say this but they're a great band. Real energy, smart lyrics, great tunes and a Number One debut single. What more could you ask for out of a band? Other than maybe some animation."

> **"I worship Satan so Christmas goes over my head" Murdoc**

Of the people you worked with on 'Demon Days', which one would you most like to have around for Christmas dinner?
Murdoc: "Probably Ike Turner, or Dennis Hopper. You open the door to one of those two, your guests are just going to shit themselves. 'Oh alright, Dennis, good of you to drop round.' You've got to be all casual about it though. 'Walnuts are over there, mate, just help yourself.'"

Anyone's going to be impressed by that, aren't they?
Murdoc: "Though, thinking about it, you'd probably get the same reaction if you opened the door, clocked who it was and then just went, 'Oi! Hopper! It's Christmas Day! Sling your hook, you stalker. Can't you see I'm having dinner!' Then just slam the door in his face, walk back to the table, roll your eyes and say, 'I can't seem to get rid of that bloke.' Same effect really."

... And which one for your New Year's Eve party?
Murdoc: "Gotta be Neneh Cherry! Straight up. She's wicked, man. Always got a smile on her face, she's got a great vibe to her. Also, I know from watching her at the Manchester shows that she can party all day and all night and then deliver a fantastic performance. So if you're looking for New Year's Eve party guests, she's the one. Deffo."

Where will you be this Christmas?
Murdoc: "Probably slumped under a tree in some kind of alcoholic coma. Great 'festive fun', eh, readers? Either that or I'll be tucked up in bed with a couple of 'Christmas presents'. When I say that, I don't really mean Christmas presents. I'm alluding to something far filthier. See, I worship Satan, so being smutty comes with the territory. And anyway, Christmas goes right over my head."

JINGLE BALLS!
The history of Xmas in rock, maybe

1988
Run-DMC release 'Christmas In Hollis', arguably the first hardcore hip-hop Christmas single ever. *"It was December 24th on Hollis Avenue in the dark/When I seen a man chilling with his dog in the park/ I approached very slowly with my heart full of fear/Looked at his dog, oh my God, an ill reindeer"*. Pure poetry. The nature of the reindeer's medical condition is never revealed.

RICKY WILSON KAISER CHIEFS
I predict a roast dinner

Where will you be this Christmas?
"I'll be home: me, me mum, me dad and me brother. Christmas Day, the usual thing: drinking before eight, falling over in the shower and the argument by midday, then sit down for the Queen."

What's the worst present you've bought someone else?
"I've not done my shopping yet, but I've sent off for my brother's present: he's getting a Fred Dibnah commemorative plate."

Have you made any New Year's resolutions?
"No, I've got everything and I've lost all my vices. Perhaps it will be something like, 'Follow my own advice', 'Always carry a pen'. 'Make the best album since 'Abbey Road'' (*laughs*)."

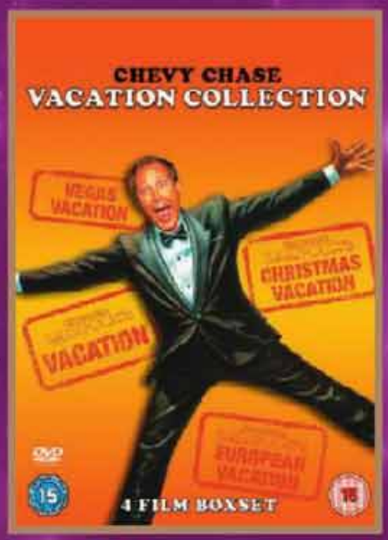
KEITH MURRAY WE ARE SCIENTISTS
It's all about sizeable piles

Where will you be this Christmas?
"I think we'll be in New York, and I will refuse to leave my apartment for a few days. I will be hoarding my presents and the presents of everyone else on the block once I've infiltrated them. I'm just going to stack them in the middle of my room and not open them for many, many days. It's all about the size of the pile, not the quality."

What's the worst present you've bought someone else?
"It's so hard to say, I've given so many truly awful, debauched gifts. It was probably something like one of our early demos. This year though I'm planning to give a lot of copies of our album away. And I think that trumps all the other bad gifts."

Christmas is a time for...
"Water-skiing! Am I right?"

Top Dog for Christmas Gifts



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Chevy Chase Vacation Collection: 4DVD

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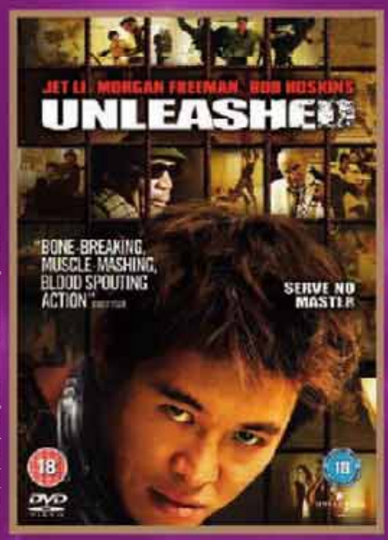
The 40 Year-Old Virgin DVD



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Unleashed DVD

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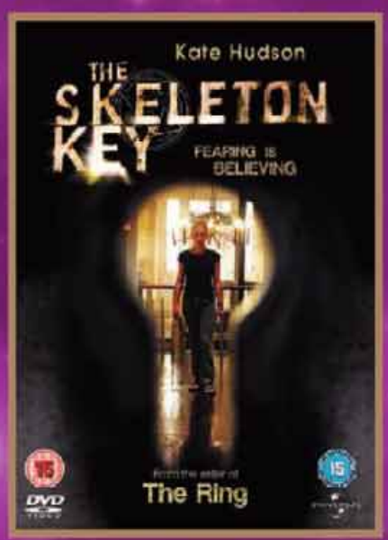
Dark Water DVD



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The Skeleton Key DVD

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Downfall DVD

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TALES FROM THE NME ARCHIVE

Saturday December 21, 1991

GREEN DAY STAGE THEIR OWN NATIVITY

How Santa, the Easter Bunny and a bag of fake placenta made the most infamous punk show ever

"The Easter Bunny ran around, knocking beers out of everyone's hands"
Billie Joe

Green Day (l-r) Mike Dirnt, Billie Joe Armstrong, Tre Cool: and not a donkey in sight...

Years before 'American Idiot' and arena tours, Californian political-punk heroes Green Day lived the life of a fresh-faced punk-rock group – a shadow of the band that they would, in time, become.

A product of San Francisco's tight-knit punk scene, Green Day were based at the cooperatively-run youth-club-cum-community centre 924 Gilman Street (no racism, sexism, or homophobia), reported on by influential fanzine *Maximum Rock And Roll* (no barcodes, major labels, or compromise) and had their records put out by regional indie label Lookout! (no solos, fourth chord, or hippies). It was a time of squat parties, limited vinyl releases, fanzines and pot.

Green Day recorded and released two albums and a clutch of singles for Lookout!, being successful enough in a low-key kind of way to head to Britain for their first tour in the winter of 1991. They made their way around the UK in the back of a rusty transit van, living hand to mouth, sleeping on floors and hooking up with various Brit punk bands for company along the way.

One of these bands was London-based punk drunks Wat Tyler. Taking their name from the 14th-century peasant revolutionary, Wat Tyler had a reputation of being the jokers on the mostly po-faced British underground punk scene. Needless to say, they quickly became fast friends with the prankish Californians in Green Day.

By the time that they hit England, Billie Joe, Tre Cool and Mike Dirnt had already weaved through mainland Europe – but as massive fans of The Who they were nervous about their first dates playing on the same soil as the birthplace of their heroes. Their debut UK appearance coincided with the release date for their second album, 'Kerplunk!', leading to an impromptu launch party at the gig in Southampton. "It was a great show," recalls Billie Joe, "although I fell off the stage."

But it was a few days later, on December 21, 1991, that Green Day staged one of the most infamous punk gigs in history. Up there with the Sex Pistols' jubilee boat cruise or the first time that the Ramones played New York dive CBGBs, many thousand more people will claim that they saw Green Day play in the unlikely surroundings of Wigan Bus Drivers' social club The Den than were actually there.

Why? Because this was the night that Green Day celebrated Christmas with an improvised onstage nativity scene, complete with rice pudding, carrier bags of soup, and drummer Tre Cool as the Virgin Mary.

"It was this small working men's club, with a tiny stage and about 200 people," says Bruno Davey, now the promoter of East London soul and funk night Swell!, but then a fan at the gig. "It was a benefit for Childline, and the punk scene was quite tight at the time, so everyone in the room knew each other. The first person I saw when I walked through the door was Tre Cool standing by the merch stand, in a black beret and a black leather jacket, looking extremely effeminate."

"Ketchup was squirting all over my nice Virgin Mary outfit. Then we threw placenta into the crowd" Billie Joe

"We were playing with [Wigan punks] Jailcell Recipes," Billie Joe remembers. "And as it was Christmas every band decided to do something special. They came out dressed as the Sex Pistols, I think another band came out as Kiss, and for our thing we decided to do the nativity scene in its entirety. Tre was the Virgin Mary, Mike was the anorexic Santa Claus narrator, and I was the schizophrenic three wise men. Our friend Aiden was a mid-wife and our friend Sean from Wat Tyler was Jesus because he had really long hair."

"He came out between my legs," adds drummer Tre. "We had ketchup squirting everywhere all over my nice Virgin Mary outfit. We also made a placenta with rice pudding and tomato sauce and threw it out into the crowd."

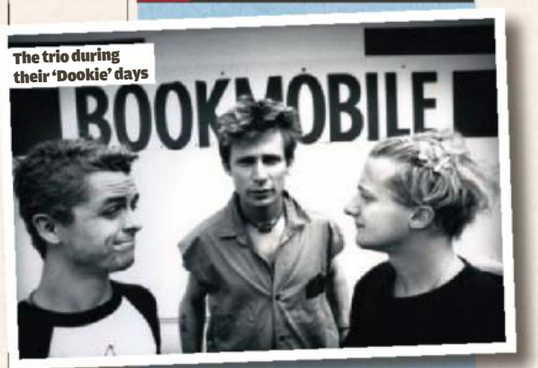
"We'd been through the entire scene, Jesus had been born, and I came out saying, 'It is I, Santa Claus, that is the true meaning of Christmas'," says bassist Mike Dirnt. "Jesus came out and said the same thing, then fucking Sean from Wat Tyler came out dressed as the Easter Bunny. He ran around knocking everyone's beers out of their hands, shouting, 'Straight edge!' at them. Tre was up on the table with his legs spread out giving birth to Sean, who was under the table with a plastic carrier bag that was full of a bunch of ketchup, tomato soup and rice pudding, which we then threw on the audience. Some of it landed on this poor guy wearing glasses. Some people were eating it. We just thought it was fucking funny."

"I remember lots of offal being thrown," recalls Bruno. "And that it was cool around that time for boys in the punk scene to wear dresses. Then they played for about an hour and a half, and people were sitting around onstage, dancing, and having a fun time. Green Day were good like that. NOFX had played recently, and they were rockstars. But Green Day didn't give a shit about that stuff. They were cool with people hanging out with them and talking between songs. Onstage they kept breaking into [Lynryd Skynyrd's '70s redneck anthem] 'Sweet Home Alabama'!"

Of course Green Day operate on an altogether larger scale these days – a world of MTV awards and red carpets far removed from the DIY punk network that sustained them in the early '90s. Yet in many ways they're the same doofus punk band that rocked the shit out of a Wigan working men's club in 1991. Billie Joe still runs the vinyl release-only Adeline records, while the band made sure that they held onto the publishing rights for their first two albums with Lookout! when they signed to a major label, effectively subsidising the San Francisco label and allowing it to keep trading until the present day. More than that, though, Green Day are still the kind of band who'll happily forsake a few sales for the sake of a laugh.

You can see it in drummer Tre's manic bodywrecking madness. You can see it in the man-sized bunny rabbits running around onstage. And of course, you can see it with their attempt to restage the birth of little baby Jesus 14 years ago.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?



The trio during their 'Dookie' days

- **1994:** 'Dookie' released. Sells 10million copies. The world goes nuts for Green Day.

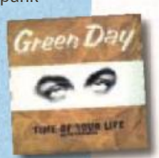
- **1995:** Green Day play Woodstock 2... and have a mud fight with the entire field. Billie Joe gets naked onstage. The singer later receives a letter from a Miss Armstrong, California, informing him, "Your father would be ashamed."

- **1995:** 'Insomniac' released... and nobody gives a shit.

- **1997:** 'Nimrod' released. Ditto.

- **1998:** 'Time Of Your Life' released and everybody goes mental again. Green Day go acoustic, soundtrack the finale to *ER* (then the most watched TV episode ever), critical evaluation is reassessed and suddenly the band are go!

- **2000:** 'Warning' released. Green Day find strings, ballads and world music. In the sublime 'Macy's Day Parade', Billie Joe marks his transition from 'punk songwriter' to 'songwriter'.



- **2003:** After a burglary, the trio lose the master tapes for their new album. A period of depression follows, until the band chirp up. "Let's make a rock opera," muses Billie Joe. "Like Queen!"

- **2004:** 'American Idiot' released. A comment on idiotic American domestic policy (from the title track: "*Don't want to be part of a redneck agenda*") and the tragic events in Iraq. Sells 11million copies.

WANT MORE? TRY THESE

Website: Lookout Records
www.lookoutrecords.com
On the homepage of Green Day's former label you'll find a website overflowing with information on the trio's pre-major career. Not only that, but on *www.924gilman.org* and *www.maximumrocknroll.com* you'll find links and resources to the inspiring hub of punk-rock activity that is the East Bay punk scene.

Book: *American Idiots And The New Punk Explosion* by Ben Myers
Ben Myers' book is the best Green Day tome in existence right now – by some margin. An authoritive, informed read, it excels by placing the writer's own existence as fan in the context of the rise of Billie Joe and co. And, by doing so, Myers crafts an inspiring, enthused narrative that somehow captures the DIY essence of punk rock.

Album: Kerplunk!
Green Day's last album on an indie, Lookout! – the one before the 10million-selling Warner Bros release 'Dookie' – and as such, the relative calm before the storm. Choice cut 'Welcome To Paradise' would turn up re-recorded and re-charged on the aforementioned 'Dookie', while the likes of 'Christie Road' and '2000 Light Years From Home' demonstrate a highly melodic band. One poised for bigger, brighter things.

LFI/STEVE DOUBLE/SPECIAL THANKS TO MARK BRISCOE

new singles

THE SUBWAYS
NO GOODBYES
A softer, more melodic slice of power-pop from Brit rockers The Subways' debut album, Young For Eternity. The CD adds Road To Nowhere, the first 7" includes B-side You've Got To Hide Your Love Away, whilst the second 7" features Mary (live).

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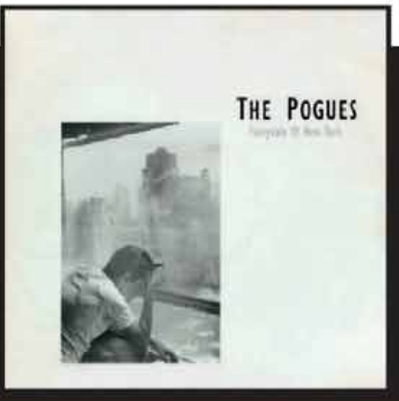

THE POGUES
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TOP TENS OF THE YEAR

The definitive guide to the most important stuff of 2005

THE TOP 10 DVDS OF 2005

1 Dig! (*Tartan*)
Real-life rock-doc shows you stuff that bands don't normally let you see: drug addiction, violence and egos the size of planets colliding together.

2 Punk Attitude (*Capital*)
3 Bob Dylan: No Direction Home (*Sony*)
4 Serge Gainsbourg (*Universal*)
5 Blur: Starshaped (*Virgin/EMI*)
6 Sex Pistols: The Great Rock'n'Roll Swindle (*Sony/BMG*)
7 Morrissey: Who Put The 'M' In Manchester? (*Sanctuary*)
8 Jimi Hendrix Live At Woodstock (*Universal*)
9 Live8 (*EMI*)
10 T Rex: Born To Boogie (*Sanctuary*)

THE TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2005

1 Rip It Up And Start Again Simon Reynolds
Punk: brilliant. Then bands like Joy Division, The Human League and PiL discovered dub, funk, disco, reggae and electronica. Mind-opening.

2 Margrave Of The Marshes John Peel And Sheila Ravenscroft
3 Everybody Dance Daryl Easlea
4 The Man Called Cash Steve Turner
5 Hotel California Barney Hoskyns
6 Room Full Of Mirrors Charles R Cross
7 The Bob Dylan Scrapbook 1955-1966
8 Moonage Daydream David Bowie and Mick Rock
9 Extreme Sharon Osbourne
10 John Cynthia Lennon

THE TOP 10 SONGTITLES OF 2005

1 'I Have A Little Wank And I Have A Little Cry' **Kunt And The Gang**
2 'The Predatory Wasp Of The Palisades Is Out To Get Us!' **Sufjan Stevens**
3 'Elizabeth, You Were Born To Play That Part' **Ryan Adams**
4 'I Really Really Fucking Hate Led Zeppelin' **Snow White**
5 'My Body Is Made Of Sunlight' **Circulus**
6 'I Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor' **Arctic Monkeys**
7 'Glömd Konst Kommer Stundom Ånyo Till Heders' **Dungen**
8 'Oh Larsen B' **British Sea Power**
9 'Handjobs For The Holidays' **Broken Social Scene**
10 'You Fuck Like My Dad' **Giant Drag**

NME'S TOP 10 TRACKS OF THE YEAR

1 The Futureheads
'Hounds Of Love' (*679*)
In the same year that the grande ole dame of Albion returned from her Lord Lucan-like exile, Sunderland's finest released their bliss-inducing take on one of her finest pop moments. With broad Wearside chanting replacing what used to be the barking of hunt dogs, the lyrics about the fear of falling in love rose like a three-part harmonic voodoo from the post punk guitar punch to produce THE retro-future dancefloor wallop of the year. If anyone was in any doubt that this was the Heads' coming of age they just had to catch the ShockWaves NME Awards Tour 2005, which saw Ross and Barry splitting the crowd down the middle for a blitzkit call and response during the addictive "*Oh! Oh-Oh!*"s. The tune of 1986; the *sound* of 2005.

2 Arcade Fire 'Rebellion (Lies)' (*Rough Trade*)
3 Arctic Monkeys 'I Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor' (*Domino*)
4 Kanye West 'Gold Digger' (*Roc-A-Fella*)
5 The White Stripes 'My Doorbell' (*XL*)
6 Babyshambles 'Fuck Forever' (*Rough Trade*)
7 Antony And The Johnsons 'Hope There's Someone' (*Rough Trade*)
8 Razorlight 'Somewhere Else' (*Vertigo*)
9 Franz Ferdinand 'Do You Want To' (*Domino*)
10 The Strokes 'Juicebox' (*Rough Trade*)

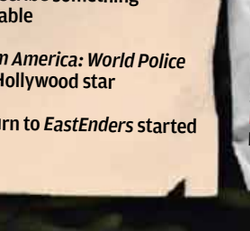
NME'S TOP 10 ALBUMS OF THE YEAR

1 Bloc Party
'Silent Alarm' (*Wichita*)
Bloc Party's debut album was all those things British guitar bands' debut albums usually forget to be: confident in stance, wide in range, global in outlook and brimming with ambition and ideas. Kele and the boys canter from relationships caught – in a single line such as, "*I still feel you and the taste of cigarettes*" – to predicting the likely crumbling of civil society in the face of rising fuel costs on 'Price Of Gasoline' (sounding ever more like the soundtrack of a riot to come). While some songwriters struggle to capture the spirit of Blair's Britain in its post-imperial phase by dusting down homely imagery decades out of date, Bloc Party's take on the nation has a panicky, urgent undercurrent that feels spot-on. It's always the quiet ones, isn't it?

2 Arcade Fire 'Funeral' (*Rough Trade*)
3 Franz Ferdinand 'You Could Have It So Much Better' (*Domino*)
4 Antony And The Johnsons 'I Am A Bird Now' (*Rough Trade*)
5 Kaiser Chiefs 'Employment' (*B-Unique*)
6 The White Stripes 'Get Behind Me Satan' (*XL*)
7 Sufjan Stevens 'Come On Feel The Illinoise' (*Rough Trade*)
8 Kanye West 'Late Registration' (*Roc-A-Fella*)
9 Babyshambles 'Down In Albion' (*Rough Trade*)
10 Gorillaz 'Demon Days' (*Parlophone*)

TOP 10 CATCHPHRASES OF 2005

1 "Am I bothered"/"Does my face look bothered?"
Lauren from *The Catherine Tate Show* does a funnier Vicky Pollard
2 "Exterminate!"
The welcome return of *Doctor Who* and his old foes the Daleks
3 "Empire!"
Leicester's favourite northerners Kasabian coined this to describe something that was ace, ie "Oasis are totally empire!"
4 "It's coming up, it's coming up..."
Eleven years after 'Parklife', Gorillaz mainman Damon Albarn sees one of his tunes dominate the zeitgeist again
5 "Bitty!"
The bloke who sucked on his mum's (and gran's) breast in *Little Britain* proved surprisingly and unnervingly popular
6 "Aaaaaaaaaaring ding ding ding ding..."
Fucking CRAZY FROG. Wanker
7 "Brrap!"
UK grime's rallying cry
8 "It's well Jackson"
Nathan Barley had many naff catchphrases ("How you doin', you rapist?"), but this one, to describe something he deemed cool, was the most memorable
9 "Matt Damon"
The *South Park* creators' new film *Team America: World Police* brilliantly poked fun at the ego of the Hollywood star
10 "Ello Mum"
Grant Mitchell's much-anticipated return to *EastEnders* started in typically gruff style



THE BEST GIGS OF 2005

Gig Of The Year Green Day at Milton Keynes
Maddest Gig Arcade Fire at Reading
Best Club Show Coldplay at London Round Chapel
Best Singalong Oasis at V
Biggest Talking Point Pete Doherty at Live8
Most Historic Arctic Monkeys at Astoria
Best Kept Secret Thom Yorke at Westminster Methodist Central Hall
Best Stage Invasion The Stooges at Hammersmith Carling Apollo
Biggest Sound The White Stripes at Glastonbury
Best Tour ShockWaves NME Awards Tour 2005

PAMELA LITTKY/DEAN CHALKLEY/SAM JONES/ELLIS PARRINDER/JAMES LOOKER/IPN

WITTER BRITAIN

2005 in the ramblings of celebrity gob-jockeys

Every week in *NME* we give totally free rein to the world's most opinionated and egotistical rock stars to say pretty much the first thing that comes into their head. Here we present 365 days of big-mouthed gobbery compiled for your pleasure. But who woke up with a groupie giving them a blowjob? Who wanted to give the whole world an erection? And who thought Pete Doherty should be put in a coma for six months?

FREAKS!

"I'm talking about evolution – the fish are gonna grow big old arms and fist you" **Devendra Banhart**

"I sleep with a pocket knife under my pillow. And a sledgehammer within reach just in case"
Willy Mason

"We steal fun from children. We're fun thieves, always trying to get involved, wearing their T-shirts, eating their food, dressing up like twats"
Ross Harley, Yourcodenameis:milo

"I killed a pigeon once 'cos it was showing off. I had a catapult and I thought, 'I could kill that pigeon,' so I had a go and I did"
Guy Garvey, Elbow

"We pray to Jesus and Tommy Lee every day. But they never respond"
Matt Tong, Bloc Party

"If you grow up in Norfolk, you follow your passions, or you work at the local factory cutting the heads off chickens"
Ed Harper, White Rose Movement

FEUDS!

"The Libertines? Who the fuck are they? Oh, are those the faggots in the Sergeant Pepper outfits?"
Omar Rodriguez, The Mars Volta

"Maroon 5 – boring. It's like they've gatecrashed a really cool party, and everyone just stands around going, 'Who the fuck is this?'"
Simon Pegg

"It is rare to meet a nice band. Everyone is an asshole! The Secret Machines are total assholes... they're like little kids"
Brandon Flowers, The Killers

"I've never cancelled a gig. I work hard for my fans. Harder than someone like say, Razorlight..."
Dominic Masters, The Others

"When I see Razorlight or the Kaiser Chiefs, I see people who just want to dress up and pose out. It's derivative, it's weak and it's an insult to people who pay money to see them"
Jesse F Keeler, Death From Above 1979

"Dido is popular because she's inoffensive, but I find her blandness totally offensive"
Siouxsie Sioux

"I met Bernard when I was 11, at secondary school on the first day and that was it. We were friends for about 10 minutes and I've hated him ever since, and he hates me"
Peter Hook, New Order

"That's the kind of comment that killed Karen Carpenter"
Eddie Argos, in response to Kele Bloc Party calling him "Fatty Argos"

FASHION!

"There's no pretence with us. We obviously don't have a stylist" **Sean Gannon, The Magic Numbers**

"West Coast Americans gave ska a bad name. Grown men in shorts"
Charlie Turner, The Dead 60s

"I can't wait for the cabaret years – it'll just be me, a drum machine and an Elton John weave in me hair"
James Skelly, The Coral

"I'm trying to find someone who'll make me a pair of chain-mail flares. They might interfere with the hairs on my legs though"
Michael Tyack, Circulus

FAMILY!

"We're fucked up in the same way a family is"
Win Butler, Arcade Fire

"I have to remember to call him Henry, because outside the band I still call him Daddy"
Blaine Harrison, Mystery Jets

"Me and my brother went to school with iron bars because the other kids kept telling us they were going to slit our throats and shit like that"
Dirk Tourette, Towers Of London

PETE!

"Broken glass... it's just like glitter, isn't it?"
Pete Doherty

"I couldn't even go to the top deck of the bus 'cos I'd get headrushes from the crack everyone was smoking"
Gemma Clarke, The Suffrajets

"Pete Doherty's managed to popularise belts being undone. Is that 'cos it's quicker to whip it off and strap it around his arm?"
Ricky Wilson, Kaiser Chiefs

"My girlfriend made a spliff out of a tampon tube. Since then it's all been alright" **Pete Doherty**

"Pete Doherty needs to be put in a coma for about six months to let it all wear off"
Alan Fletcher (Dr Karl Kennedy from *Neighbours*)

"I picked up my parents' copy of *The Observer* and on the news pages was a picture of this pasty-faced street urchin, and there was this huge crack pipe full of smoke and I immediately became fascinated"
Max Carlish

DEAN CHALKLEY\SAM JONES/ED MILES/ANDY FALLON/ANDY WILLSHER

SEX!

"You know the whole thing about buying the world a Coke? I'd like to give the world an erection"
Josh Homme, QOTSA

"I can't think of anyone else I would want to sleep with. Manson is a very jealous person. I mentioned that I like Franz Ferdinand and he just got *furious*"
Dita Von Teese

"I woke up this morning with this girl next to me giving me a blowjob. That's a groupie for you"
Sune Rose Wagner, The Raveonettes

"Rabbits are great – the way they breed! It's unbelievable! It's REAL!" **Roots Manuva**

"These two girls said they'd make our tour manager's night by having lesbian sex for him"
Carey Willetts, Athlete

"Somehow the really intelligent girls aren't the ones that wanna give you a blowjob after the show"
Sam Endicott, The Bravery

"Sleeping with pop stars is a perk of the job"
Tabitha Denholm, Queens Of Noize

"Many times people have chuffed down on my scrotum, in the good old rock'n'roll days"
Noddy Holder

"Have you ever had sex with a donkey while on cocaine?"
Moby

"The cock! I was caught out while singing to a fan and wearing a kilt, by someone sticking a long lens between my legs. And that's life" **Darius Danesh**

BRITPOP 10 YEARS ON!

"We went to the Good Mixer and my friend introduced me to Graham Coxon. I gave him our last demo tape, I doubt he ever listened to it. He was more drunk than I was"
Murray Lightburn, The Dears

"In the mid-'90s you'd turn on *Top Of The Pops* and it would be Blur, Oasis, Pulp, y'know... ace! Then two years ago it was stuff like Travis' 'Flowers In The Window' – enough to drive anybody to drink"
Eddie Argos, Art Brut

"I saw him once in 10 years and nearly ran him down" **Bernard Butler on Brett Anderson**

"I have no idea who Shed Seven are. If we sounded like them, they would have sold 3million records and we probably would have heard of them"
Brandon Flowers, The Killers

CELEBRITY SUCK-UPS!

"When I first heard Antony I knew I was in the presence of an angel and a beauteous heart"
Lou Reed

"SpongeBob? I love his quirkiness, man. It bends me fookin' mind"
Liam Gallagher, Oasis

"Franz are my favourite band. There's a bit of their feel to my new album"
Kanye West

"He's a fan of 'Golden Touch'"
Johnny Borrell on Nelson Mandela

CONTROVERSY!

"When I look out into a crowd these days it looks more like a sea of beans. I love it – you feel like Hitler" **Sam Forrest, Nine Black Alps**

"I'd happily wank off a tramp for success"
Ricky Wilson, Kaiser Chiefs

"2Hats keeps rabbits. I'm not saying he does anything illegal with them, but one did spunk in his face" **Dwain P Xain, Goldie Lookin Chain**

"Commercially, it would be a great idea to blow my head off with a shot gun"
Chris Martin, Coldplay

"I hated my neighbour. I filled his car engine with sugar and destroyed the motor. It was the perfect crime" **Annie**

POLITICS!

"There are people who are starving, who don't get any rock music. It has to work otherwise I'd be very sad"
Simon Amstell on Live8

"Queens Of The Stone Age will play the party after these terrorists hang"
Josh Homme on the London bombers

"I just got back from a meeting with the G8. They asked me where I got the authority so I told them, 'There are 38million names in this box'"
Bono

"I'd kill all the fox hunters. Put little fluffy tails on them, blow a bugle and go, 'You've got five minutes to fuck off, you coke-smoking, Nazi, fucking racist, slapper, bitch, cunt, fuckwit twat"
Johnny Cooke, Dogs

JOBS FOR THE BOYS – AND GIRLS!

"I'm a very good driver and I know my way around London quite well, so if this all goes tits-up, I'm going to get a fleet of gold cabs and start a company"
Liela Moss, The Duke Spirit

"I wanted to be a rally driver but, since I'm 22 and I still haven't learnt how to drive I think I was barking up the wrong tree there"
Ross Millard, The Futureheads

"I'd be the landlord of a pub. I used to run a venue so I've got the licence – I got 100 per cent in my landlord exam"
Simon Rix, Kaiser Chiefs

CRAFTS!

"I like cooking for people, too. I made a nice Thai curry using a pestle and mortar the other day – with all the proper spices and that"
Barry Hyde, The Futureheads

"Making my own Theremin wasn't too difficult, although I did get a few electric shocks along the way"
Patrick Wolf

BORRELL!

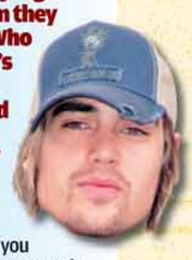
"I went onstage and I got gripped by this paranoia and stagefright where I just couldn't perform... It was a complete meltdown in my head, I couldn't fucking do it"
Johnny Borrell, Razorlight

BOOZE AND DRUGS!

"I don't have a drinking problem. I have a drinking solution"
Dirt, The Bravery

"After the New Year's gig I provided a party for 350 kids of all ages until 5am. Everyone got in free, smoked hash, took coke, and did what they wanted..."
Dominic Masters, The Others

OH – AND THE MUSIC!



"People seem to judge genres more than they judge the tune. Who gives a fuck who's making it, what they look like and how many drugs they're taking?"
Charlie Simpson, Fightstar

"Doing gigs our way, you can find yourself on a mountain top, with a campfire, surrounded by French girls. It's more fun"
Yan, British Sea Power

"I wanna take hip-hop back to the NWA days where everything was real. Fuck the party vibe, man"
The Game

"Tonight Matthew, I am Alan from The Rakes"
Paul Smith, Maximo Park (onstage at Carling Weekend: Reading Festival)

Christmastime for heroes

FRANZ FERDINAND
The four wise men

What's the worst present you've ever given?
Bob Hardy: "Worst present? I don't think I've ever given a bad present. The best present that I ever got was probably the Millennium Falcon when I was four."
Alex Kapranos: "I remember one year it was a bumper year because I got a Raleigh Tomahawk – which was a junior version of the Chopper – and I got a tracksuit. I thought the tracksuit would make me really athletic – the Olympics had been on that year – but it didn't…"

What's the best thing about Christmas?
Alex: "As a kid, at Christmas you could surreptitiously drink alcohol by eating chocolate liqueurs, which I always liked."
Bob: "I like the idea you can get up at 11 and have a drink. You're expected to do it. 'Have a sherry!'. My mum's doing it as well, she's in the kitchen drinking while doing the cooking."

Are you fans of Christmas?
Alex: "Yes, but in Scotland Christmas has only really been celebrated properly for the last 30 years or so. New Year is the big thing. So Scotland is still pagan!"
Bob: "New Year in Glasgow is great. You go to a pub to see the bells in, then everything closes up and you go out looking for the mythical great party. The weather is always really cold and there's a chance it might snow. I love that."

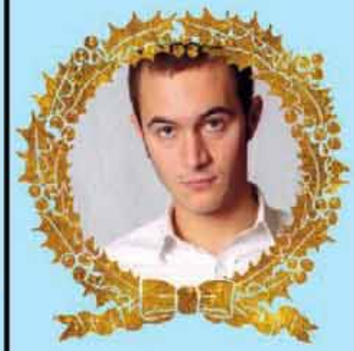
So what constitutes the mythical great party?
Alex: "I had a New Year's Eve party in my flat a few years ago which was good. I cooked and we set off fireworks, which was pretty cool."

HOOKY NEW ORDER
Bass Viking

Who are the best new band you've heard in 2005?
"Bloc Party. The fact that Bernard [Sumner] hates them makes me love them even more."

After your Joy Division set for John Peel Day, would you consider doing a full-length gig like that?
"It is being discussed, actually. We talked to Moby and Billy Corgan about it and they're very excited about the idea. So yeah, maybe next year we'll do a Joy Division gig for an epilepsy charity."

Where will you be this Christmas?
"I'll be at home assembling toys with the kids. When I was in rehab, I was amazed that everyone in my AA group was terrified of Christmas because they thought they'd fall victim to the egg-nog, but I never found it that way. It's nice to wake up and be able to do things like that without your hands shaking and wishing you were dead."



TOM SMITH EDITORS
Editor-in-chief

What's the worst present you've ever given?
"Never given a bad one, although a couple of years ago my mum bought me these vests for sleeping in but they were described on the label as 'sex wear' or something ridiculous like that. Sex linen? Maybe because it was these slinky vests from my mum, plus I'm not a big vest fan, but they've never been worn."

GOLDIE LOOKIN CHAIN
Rapping paper

Where will you be this Christmas?
Eggsy: "I'll probably be at my mum and dad's house. I'll have a few pints, get wrecked and go and watch this geezer who's got this orange gun. It could fucking kill a man, it can shoot oranges that far. I want one of 'em for Christmas."
Maggot: "We go into lock-down from the 20th onwards, so I'm planning to take it easy after that. On Christmas Day, I'm gonna be watching a film called *Threads*.

> **"I want an orange gun for my Christmas" Eggsy**

It's from the 1980s, about people from Britain trying to survive after a nuclear war. Essential Christmas viewing."

What's your biggest regret of 2005?
Maggot: "Not getting my sexual medical complaints sorted out. Once I'm given the all-clear I'll be back on the trail…"

Which member of the band have you come closest to hitting this year and why?
Eggsy: "I nearly hit our tour manager in my sleep at one point. He was trying to get us up and I didn't know what was going on so I took a swing at him."

Who are the best new band you've heard in 2005?
Maggot: "It's a toss up between Nine Black Alps and The Rakes. They should get together because The Rakes wear more lambswool per square inch and NBA have got long hair, so if they combined, you'll get loads of static electricity."

Complete this sentence: "The real meaning of Christmas is...."
Maggot: "Watching *Threads*."
Eggsy: "Morecambe and Wise!"

PIETER M VAN HATTEM/MATTHIEU ZAZZO/RETNA

WORDS: JOHNNY DEPTH ILLUSTRATION: JAMES TAYLOR AT DEBUTART

20 HILARIOUS WAYS TO MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS MORE ROCK'N'ROLL

Christmas Day. Once the present-receiving bit is out of the way, it gets a bit boring, right? So why not follow NME's recommendations for ways to make your Noël raise a lot more hell

1 Go up to the front during midnight mass and stagedive.

2 As the congregation is leaving, hand them flyers for a squat party your band is playing at next week, promising them it will be "mad. Rammed with pillheads and freaks, and The Others might play".

3 Come down last for the opening of the presents, with two Japanese students, whose presence you never explain to your family, on your arm.

4 Instead of presents, give your family mixtapes and poems you wrote about them when you were trashed on ketamine.

5 As soon as you get your presents, go out and pawn them and use the proceeds to finance putting out a limited-run seven-inch single.

6 When the family go for a brisk after-breakfast Christmas morning walk, take a carrier bag with a four-pack of Guinness in it with you.

7 Instead of phoning elderly relatives or writing thank-you letters, go round with an acoustic guitar and play them a song you wrote explaining how their present made you feel.

8 Upon receiving an item of knitwear, say you are going to put it on, then re-emerge in it five minutes later having covered it in Situationist slogans written in permanent marker.

9 If anyone tries to photograph you unwrapping your presents, scream, "NO PHOTOS!" at them and attack them.

10 Go carol singing, but do so in a P-reg transit van full of Ginsters wrappers and empty lager cans.

11 When singing for people, perform only Bad Company's 'Feel Like Makin' Love' and 'Killing In The Name Of' by Rage Against The Machine.

12 At dinner, refuse food and point out that you "have all the food I need right here", showing them your bottle of Jack Daniel's.

13 During the Queen's speech, play Towers Of London at full blast and draw a swastika on her head, as a statement or something.

14 When playing charades, sit down for 20 seconds after any successful mime, then get back up to do another one as an "encore".

15 Continually ask any relatives you don't particularly know very well if they have any horse, and if the answer is no, explain that you're going to have to take their jewellery as "payment" for your presence.

In the event of a family karaoke session, turn your performance into an experimental jam full of feedback and heavily-treated vocals

16 Wrap and place under the tree several dozen pairs of knickers and Polaroids of girls in lingerie, addressed to yourself.

17 In the event of a family karaoke session, turn your performance into an experimental jam full of feedback and heavily-treated vocals. When you're finished, trash the speaker with your mic and a broken bottle. Then attack someone because you didn't get paid.

18 While your family is inevitably napping after lunch, secrete several empty vodka bottles and porn mags about the floor, then inform the police that you believe major drug use is happening at your address. When they arrive, be hurriedly flushing wraps of flour down the toilet.

19 Have a paid lackey open your Christmas presents for you as you loiter in the living room doorway. Then have a brief animated discussion with him, after which he informs your parents that there is "a problem with the aftershave" and that you are "threatening to pull out".

20 Offer love to your fellow man and spread vibes of peace and joy all around you, wherever you do roam. Actually, no, scratch that last one – it's shit.

WORDS: MARK BEAUMONT PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDY WILLSHER

GOATS' BLOOD, GOD'S PUBES AND PROG ROCK!

... three key ingredients for the perfect Christmas party – if you're a member of the funniest comedy double-act in Britain, that is. Here, The Mighty Boosh reveal their secrets of how to throw a truly legendary Xmas bash. Just stay away from Lee Perry's feet...

"For Christmas," says evil-faced comedy rock goblin Noel Fielding (the one that hangs about indie gigs dressed like a 19th-century German Kaiser gone cyberpunk), "I want Vincent Gallo's sperm. He's selling his sperm on the net for, like, £1million."

"How much of it is he selling?" asks stone-faced jazzophile Julian Barratt (the one who you can't quite work out why he's mates with the other one, and who was in *Nathan Barley*).

"All of it," says Noel, glugging back champagne on the plush cream carpet of a palatial east London townhouse like he owns the place. "As much as he can produce. We should put our sperm on the net, Ju. My sperm's black and it fizzes. There's a lot of liquorice in my diet."

Come with us now on a journey through time, space and celebrity-semen references to the world of The Mighty Boosh's Fantasy Christmas Party. It makes a suitably warped kind of sense: this pair are the dual megabrains behind 2005's funniest TV show (fact!), the one DVD that every band in the world puts on the tourbus TV when they're not rewatching *Anal Angels Volume 3*.

Yes, from these hot, bubbling brain-buckets spewed forth the demonic grannies, Betamax bandits, green cockney Polo mint murderers, retarded moons, lisping mystics, small yellow octopus heads and Razorlight-searching-for-the-Lost-Chord-in-the-desert-with-metal-detectors of their surrealist masterwork. So who better to guide us through the perfect celebration of an event that could've leapt straight out of their series – for what is Christmas if not a fat flying postman going abseiling down chimneys in memory of God's birthday?

"It's all gone a bit wrong," Noel muses. "It's all about buying CDs and DVDs for people. Where's the Christmas carols? You're a pagan, aren't you, Ju?"

Julian nods. "Slightly, yeah."

Noel: "Does that change things?"

Julian: "Yeah. I get off with my mum."

Noel: "You drink goats' blood together. Warm goats' blood though, because it's Christmas."

You're OK, they only drink goats' blood, not poodles'

Better still, The Boosh are already a bit pissed. So, with Noel riffing away on his own mental toboggan to Nuttersville and Julian mainly staring into the middle distance and repeating random phrases ("fur maze...", "Quasar...", "fluorescent fish..."), they detail the most insane party ever conceived. To most Christmas parties you might be expected to bring some beers and mistletoe. To the Boosh Do, however, you'd best pack a compass, a pink ghost suit, a bag of A-grade God's pubes and some laser arrows to destroy the robot highwayman. And whatever you do, don't go in the Rick Wakeman room...

1 PICK A GOOD LOCATION

Noel: "Hampton Court Maze would be a good party. People just go around and each dead end is a little different section, a little bar or you can get absinthe in that dead end."

Julian: "Everyone sets off at the same time and gets lost."

N: "You have a few ghosts and headless people in there. You could have a little section for each different drug. You could have a peyote section, an opium section..."

J: "What, in a maze? Imagine the horror."

N: "What you'd do is you'd let everyone off and then you'd close it off, push a bush over the entrance. And you'd have a pod that hangs above the maze with a bird's eye view so you could watch. I'd have it on ice as well, to add to the mayhem. Ice the floor. Maybe when you get to the middle there's a spiral staircase so you can go up to a platform where you can watch the rest of the idiots struggling around and you can taunt them with the maps."

2 STOCK UP ON FOOD AND DRINK

J: "Flatliners are good. It's vodka and another clear alcohol with Tabasco in the middle and they float because they're different densities, so you have a clear drink with a red line in the middle."

N: "And Ribena and Nesquik. Then only white food. Rice, ice cream, spaghetti. Marshmallows and Jelly Tots."

3 INVITE YOUR GUESTS WITH CARE

N: "Jim Morrison. He's always embarrassing and good for a laugh. Get him tanked up. Rimbaud, Blakey from *On The Buses*. Obviously the guy from Brian Jonestown Massacre, and Vincent Gallo, in the hope that they'd have a triffic fight. And some interesting women. Joan Of Arc."

J: "Björk."

N: "Björk and Joan Of Arc. They've got to dress like a pantomime donkey in the one suit. David Walliams..."

J: "He'd already be there."

N: "He wouldn't be invited but somehow he'd be there. We should have a killer to spice it up. I like the blonde guy who used to cut up squirrels."

J: "Ted Bundy?"

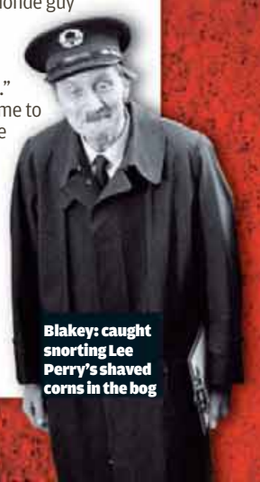
N: "No, the other one."

J: "Crippin? 'If you come to this party there will be a serial killer there.'"

N: "And a minotaur, obviously. And a labrador."

J: "A minodor. Half-man, half-labrador."

N: "If he's going to eat you, you throw a stick down the other end of the maze and he scurries off."



Blakey: caught snorting Lee Perry's shaved corns in the bog

Noel sights the robot highwayman at the bottom of his glass after a super-strong hit of Dulux

4 CHOOSE YOUR SOUNDTRACK

N: "We'll only play Congolese music. And Tangerine Dream and Hawkwind. There'll be a prog-rock room where once you come inside it someone pushes a bush across and you can't leave, where they only play 'Owner Of A Lonely Heart' over and over. The Rick Wakeman room, definitely. And the funk and folk room. The Fonk room, where we get Rick James and Steeleye Span to play together and invent fonk."

Hawkwind: mixes perfectly into Congolese wedding polka

5 PLAY SOME PARTY GAMES

N: "We're in a maze, we could do a life-size *Pac Man* game. You could have the costumes lying around and if anyone fancies dressing up as a pink ghost... I'd like a fur maze instead of leaf. Leopardskin fur with a glass floor and a tank with fluorescent neon fish underneath the floor. And you could play medieval Quasar, where you fire laser arrows at a robotic highwayman with red laser eyes that opens up and cream soda comes out."

6 PLAN SOME ENTERTAINMENT

J: "Maybe we could shoot someone at the end of the night. Gerry Rafferty. He could just be executed at the end of the night."

N: "Or a live operation. We get R Kelly and we do a minor operation on him. We remove his spleen. And we let the public have a go at doing it. We explain roughly what they've got to do and they put the stuff on and go, 'Am I doing this right?'"

How did they fit that hat inside a cracker?

7 GET THE DRUGS IN

N: "Fast drugs. I hate slow drugs. What's that one that makes your heart come out your arse? Dulux."

J: "What's that one where you go up and you kiss God's balls and then you come down and go about your business? It takes about a minute. DVT? Oh no, that's a fertiliser."

N: "You shave God's balls and come down with all the hair in a satchel and you take that with mescalin. What about if we get some of Lee 'Scratch' Perry's dry skin off his scalp and off his feet. You'd never come back though, would you?"

Perry: fresh scalp shavings available on Camden Lock

8 KICK EVERYONE OUT

N: "You'll know the party's finished because Pete Doherty will be looking at his watch going, 'I've got stuff to do tomorrow.' And the colour of the sky will change. When the party's really raging it'll be orange and red, when it's coming down a little bit it'll be purple and when it's really mellow, a light blue and silver."

So, you're all invited to The Mighty Boosh Xmas Pac Man On Ice Death Maze World Prog Surgery Party. Bring a bottle and Björk. "Either that," Julian deadpans, "or I'll spend it with my parents." ■

JINGLE BALLS!

The history of Xmas in rock, maybe

1984

A new strain enters the Christmas record gene pool: the charity record. Band Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' made everyone give money to help needy Africans. Thank God we never needed to do that again... oh dear.

REX FEATURES. THE MIGHTY BOOSH ARE ON TOUR FEBRUARY-MARCH 2006. FULL TOUR DATES AVAILABLE AT WWW.THEMIGHTYBOOSH.COM. SERIES TWO OF *THE MIGHTY BOOSH* IS ON BBC2 IN JANUARY AND AVAILABLE ON DVD FROM FEBRUARY 13

THE INSIDE TRACK

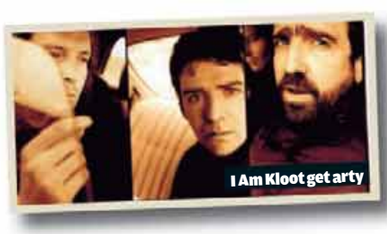
WITH iPOD AND iTUNES

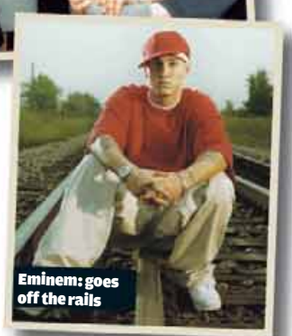
WHAT'S NEW?

B&S and not a cardigan in sight

▶ Check out **Belle & Sebastian**'s contribution to this years Don't Look Back Festival at The Barbican – the night they played the whole of their classic album 'If You're Feeling Sinister'. It's available exclusively for your delectation. Fey pop never sounded so "Way hey!".

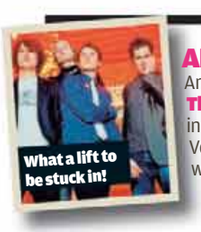
▶ Acoustic Manc popstrels **I Am Kloot** led by Lee Mavers-soundalike John Bramwell return with an exclusive download single produced by Elbow's Guy Garvey called 'Maybe I Should', available now.


I Am Kloot get arty


Eminem: goes off the rails

▶ Which one's better? The one where he's dressed up as Christina Aguilera or the one where Dido gets killed? Now you can make that call with this exclusive dip into **Eminem**'s video archive.

▶ Kayne West is her biggest fan and her new album has been the hottest talking point of the autumn. America's Kate Bush, **Fiona Apple**, gets the Essential treatment. Now you can find out what all the fuss was about.

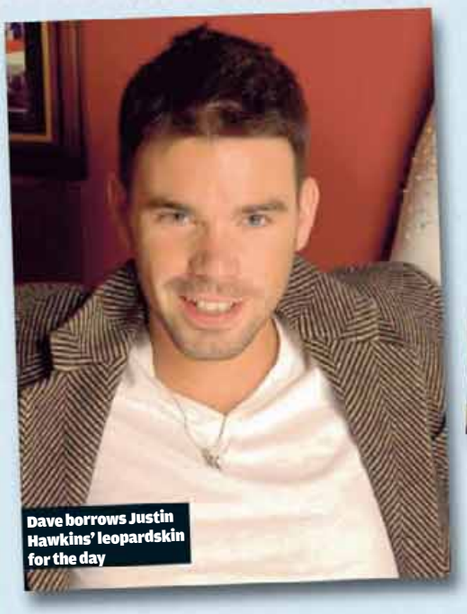

What a lift to be stuck in!

AND FINALLY...

And finally...check out 'Tribute To The Killers' by, ahem, **The Killers**' Tribute Band. It's the sound of being stuck in a lift with only muzak for company and puts the 'Las Vegas' back into The Killers. At least then you'll know why Mr Brightside had to kill Jenny.

iPOD JACKING INDIE SWAPSIES!

It's the new craze hitting the USA. Strangers meet, acknowledge iPods, swap earphones et voilá – are thrown into the world of new sounds. But obviously it works less well if one of you runs off with said Pod and flogs it down the market. Test cases MTV VJ's Dave Berry and Alex Zane won't do that, will they?


Dave borrows Justin Hawkins' leopardskin for the day

Alex reckon he's got the X-Factor

DAVE BERRY ON ALEX ZANE'S iPOD:

Most embarrassing track: "Will Smith, 'The Black Suit's Coming', from *Men In Black 2* to which Alex knows all the words."
Song you couldn't believe was on there: "'Turtle Power' – Partners In Kryme. Again, to which Alex knows all the words."
What you learnt about Alex's personality: "That if a movie has a tie-in rap, Alex for some reason feels the need to learn every word."
Cool? "No. That is until you see Alex perform the raps word for word in person, at which point, really *not* cool!"

RATING: 8/10

ALEX ZANE ON DAVE BERRY'S iPOD:

Most embarrassing track: "The soundtrack to *Dirty Dancing*. Only embarrassing because of Dave's idolisation of a young Patrick Swayze and his ability to quote the movie pretty much line for line."
Song you couldn't believe was on there: "Prince, 'Purple Rain'. In three years of knowing Dave, he's never once mentioned his penchant for Prince, instead preferring to swagger around to the Oasis back-catalogue."
What you learnt about Dave's personality: "Dave owns pretty much *every* soundtrack to *every* gangster movie (specifically those of the cockney variety)."
Cool? "If your idea of fun is doing dodgy dealings on the edge of the law while using expletives like, 'You f*****g muppet,' and, 'You're 'avin a f*****g laaarf,' before suddenly sinking into reverie and murmuring, 'Nobody puts baby in the corner,' as a single tear runs down your cheek, then it's very cool."

RATING: 8/10

Alex and Dave can be seen arguing over music ever weekday on TRL, MTV at 6pm

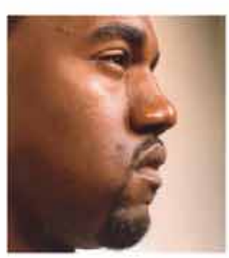
SEASONAL SHARING

Buy the ideal gift for your loved ones

Dribbling with confusion over what to get that funny uncle of yours or the passive/aggressive mutual friend you got lumbered with for Secret Santa? Snap up an iTunes gift certificate, a Pre-Pay card from Carphone Warehouse, Dixons, PC World , Currys or the Link store or make your own custom playlist. You can also send their favourite song by selecting 'Gift This Music'. So how about these seasonal treats for that hard-to-buy-for celeb in your life....

▶ Buy **Kele Bloc Party**
'Frosty The Snowman' by Fiona Apple
Everyone wishes all the best for Kele at this time of year. But if he doesn't turn that frown around, this may be the tune for him.

▶ Buy **Liam Gallagher**
'Christmas Is Going To The Dogs' by Eels
A massive pre-emptive strike for the biggest Manchester grump of the 'Christmas is bollocks!' school.



▶ Buy **Kanye West**
'The Little Drum Machine Boy' by Beck
Beck's honky Crimbo sounds will presumably raise even the smallest of smiles from hip-hop's coolest cat. You'd hope.

▶ Buy **Meg White**
'Silent Night' by Johnny Cash
The man in black for the girl in the white and red. You'd suspect the Chrimbo dinner might be cool, calm, collected and very quiet.

PIETER M VAN HATTEM/ELLIS PARRINDER/DEAN CHALKLEY

WORDS: **RICH PELLEY** PHOTOGRAPHS: **ELLIS PARRINDER**

"Scaramooouche, Scaramooouche, will you do the David Brent dance?"

JINGLE BELL RICK!

Join us on a Slough ride (geddit?) through Ricky Gervais' festive season

Mamma mia Figaro! How will Ricky Gervais be spending Christmas? Who'd be in his dream band? And what was the high point of his year? Beelzebub has a devil put aside for him. For hiiiiiim. For hiiiiiiiiiiiim.

Hello, Ricky. How many days will you be getting trollied for this Christmas?
"You know what? I don't drink any more at Christmas than the rest of the year. And anyway, the food soaks it up. So I won't be getting pissed up."

Turkey. Over-rated?
"No! Turkey's amazing. Turkey's incredible. Proteinous. Low fat. Tasty. The roast dinner is the King Of Dinners. And the Christmas dinner is the King Of Roasts. I'm never sick of Christmas dinner. I have about five, different families and stuff. (*Thinks*) Different families? No. Different members of my family. (*Imagining*) I go around different families, just pop next door, 'Got any turkey?'. No. Isn't there something in turkey that helps you sleep, that's why you're tired? I think it's got a chemical in it that acts as a mild anaesthetic."

What's the worst Christmas present you've ever given?
"When you get to 13 you realise you've got to buck your ideas up. I had older brothers and sisters so I got loads of Christmas presents. My sister had given me loads of nice presents and I'd given her a bottle of shampoo that was 20p from Tesco and I realised then that wasn't enough. Also, a couple of years ago, I'd left my Christmas shopping way too late. So I got everyone £10 worth of scratchcards. Even my little nieces and nephews (*laughs*). Some won, some lost, but that's the gamble."

JINGLE BALLS!
The history of Xmas in rock, maybe

1977

David Bowie and Bing Crosby provide one of pop's unlikeliest yuletide duets with their rendering of 'Little Drummer Boy'. Recording sessions saw the disparate artists both learning from the other, with Bowie updating many classic crooner standards and Crosby getting cocaine blown up his arse by a transvestite German hooker. Possibly.

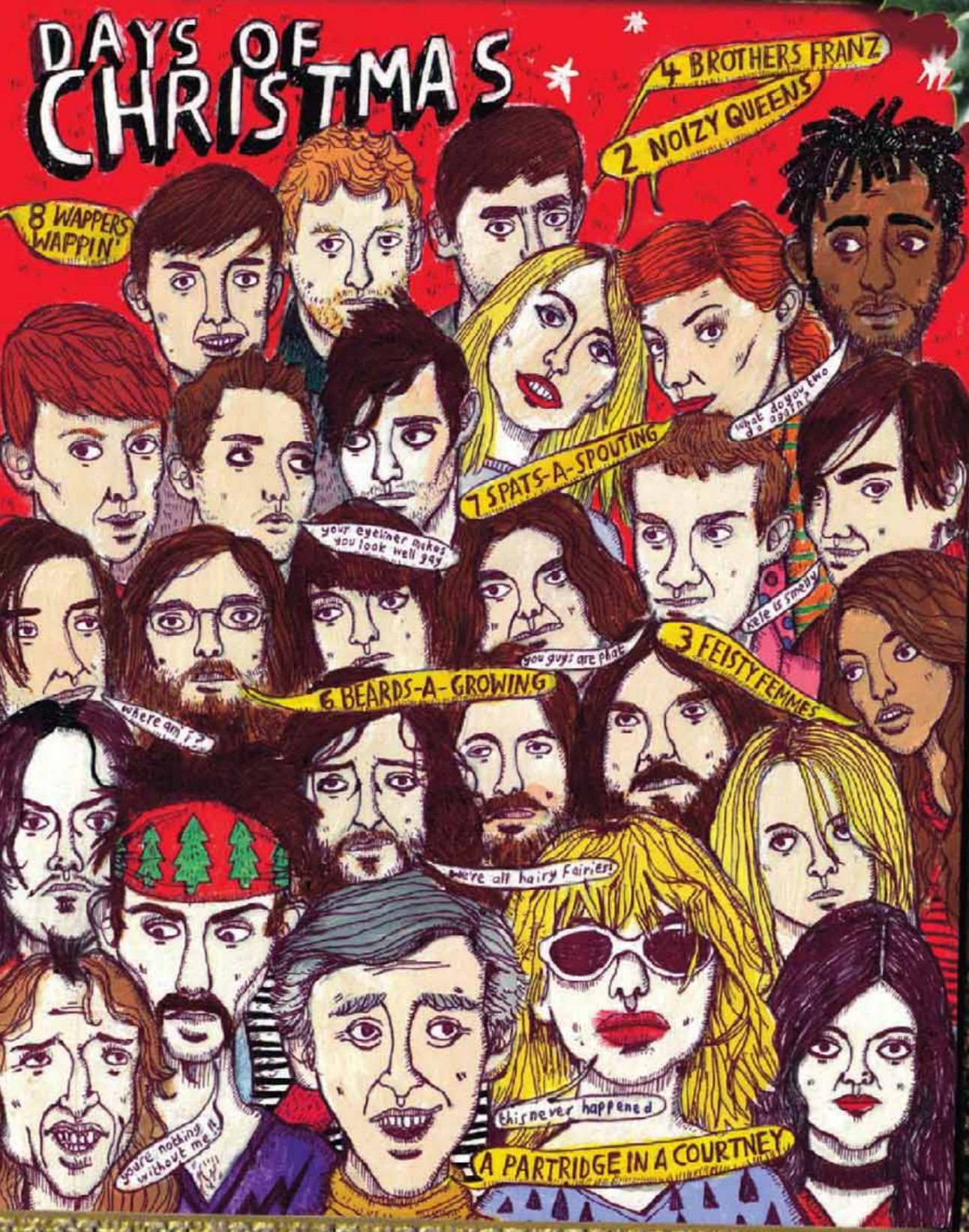
What are your favourite Christmas comedies?
"*Only Fools And Horses* used to be a must in my household. *Morecambe And Wise*, obviously. You didn't miss that. How about *The Office Christmas Special*? Which is out now on DVD (*chortles*)."

If you could form a Christmas supergroup, who would you chose?
"We used to do this for a laugh. We used to make up blokes' rock star names. Like change your name to Fred Zeppelin. Dwight Snake. I think I'd be Fred Zeppelin. Anyway. Supergroup. (*Thinks*) On drums, it's got to be Keith Moon. Bass? Lemmy. Guitar? I'd have two guitars to unbalance it a bit. Maybe Johnny Marr and Mick Ronson. What a band. And singing? I'd better, hadn't I."

Do people still jump out at you and do the dance from *The Office*?
"No. It's only happened once. I was on *The Jonathan Ross Show* and Jonathan said, 'Do people shout your catchphrase?' I said, 'We purposely don't like catchphrases. In fact we ridicule them in *The Office*.' We came out to the car park and a bloke went (*mimes dance*), '*Umm umm ummm um um humm*'. Jonathan pissed himself. I'd given this pretentious answer and a bloke jumps out and does the dance. Although 250,000 people at Live8 made me do it (*laughs*). I fell under mob pressure there."

If you see Ricky on the street, do this. He'll love it!

FANBOY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!



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THE BEST BANDS FROM THE BEST MUSIC MAGAZINE

NME PRESENTS THE ESSENTIAL BANDS OF 2005

THE BIGGEST BANDS, THE BIGGEST TRACKS OF THE YEAR FROM
KAISER CHIEFS, GORILLAZ, GOLDFRAPP, FRANZ FERDINAND, COLDPLAY,
HARD-FI, THE MAGIC MUMBERS, THE KILLERS AND MORE

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NME

WORDS: DAN MARTIN PHOTOGRAPHS: DEAN CHALKLEY

NOEL GALLAGHER

The first Noel

NME's alternative Christmas message, this year brought to you by Gallagher Senior

"This year has been our best for ages..."

"...and no fucking mistake. When we came back with 'Lyla' I wasn't sure about it. I thought it was a bit throwaway – it's a song about a chick. I was kind of hoping to make more of a statement with something like 'Mucky Fingers' or 'The Importance Of Being Idle'. But everybody that worked in the office and stuff were like, 'That's the tune, man, get it out.'"

"I've been taking a more hands-off approach with everything..."

"...and I've been taking notice of more people's opinions. And that was one of the days where I went, 'Alright, if you tell me that this fucking song's great I'm gonna go with it, but fucking woe betide you if it stiffs. But it didn't and it was great, so it kind of makes me think that maybe I can take more of a back seat in the future, let the others get much more involved and just enjoy playing guitar and being part of a group."

"Doing the interview with *NME* on my own was a bit weird..."

"...if that's what it's like being a solo artist then fuck that. I think the moment I would have done a solo record has definitely passed now. I don't have any ambition for that. Maybe back in the day when things were going tits up, but now I wouldn't even begin to entertain the idea. Unless of course Liam gets fucking locked up for 20 years and I've got to get out there and pay the bills."

"I think the moment I would have done a solo record has passed now"

"V was the best festival we've ever done..."

"...apart from Glastonbury '94. And I don't remember a fucking thing about that. Glastonbury's a weird thing, because it's so big but it's not even remotely the biggest gig that we would do in any year. But it's great to be at – I've been more times than I've played and it's fucking amazing. It's always better to be at than to play at."

"It was like lightning that night at V..."

"...just fucking ace. Liam was on form and the new songs went down so well. Hearing the whole crowd singing along to every word of 'The Importance Of Being Idle', and two weeks after that it going to Number One, that blew me away, actually more than 'Lyla'. You kind of expect your first single before the album comes out to get to Number One, but for the second one to get there as well, to me that's pretty special."

"We're not taking three years off..."

"...we finish touring next March in Mexico City. By the time it gets to that I'll be fucking sick of it and everybody in it. I'll be fucking sick of Liam and Gem and Andy and everyone, sick of the songs, sick of singing 'The Importance Of Being Idle' every night and it'll be like, 'Right. I'm off on holiday for six months!' So that's 2006 out. Then we'll get in the studio and 2007 will be taken up with recording. So allowing for cock-ups we'll be back in 2008. We've still got a while to go yet, so until then, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!"

Just think how many more Bloc Party put-downs lie behind that forehead...

THE MAN WITH ALL THE ANSWERS: **MARK 'VORDERMAN' BEAUMONT**

BIG MASSIVE ANNUAL NME CHRISTMAS QUIZ FANDANGO™

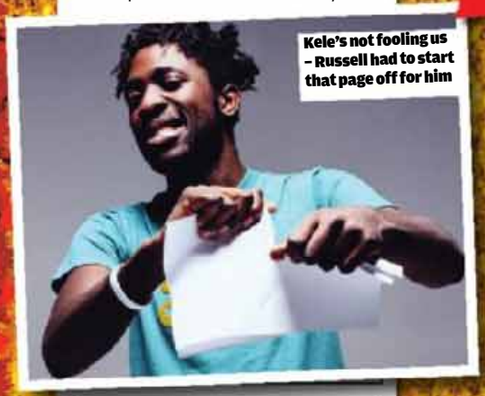
Forget all the other fripperies in this paper. It's time to get down to the business of winning loads of free stuff in our Big Massive Annual NME Christmas Quiz Fandango™

ROUND ONE: PUNCHAMANGIRO!

2005 was a vintage year for the rock ruck – with pop fists swinging more freely than a night round Sadie Frost's house. But who was on the receiving end of the following?

1 A knuckle-sandwich from Pete Doherty in a Soho hotel?

2 A drop-kick from Kele Bloc Party?



Kele's not fooling us – Russell had to start that page off for him

3 A bunch of fives from Pete Doherty in a Highgate pub?

4 A smackdown from some Albanian bouncers?

5 A headbutt from, um, Pete Doherty at Reading?

Who did Pete thump? And who else did he thump? And who else?

ROUND TWO: SAY WHAT YOU SEE

Decipher the band or artist from these pictorial clues. Go on, it's Christmas.

1 2 3 4 5

ROUND THREE: TEST FOLLICLES!

There's no doubt that 2005's regulation indie 'do' was "the Bloc Head" but can you recognise the pop stars behind these distinctive barnets?

1 2 3 4 5

ROUND FOUR: SUMMER OF SKA

It was all pork-pie hats and skanky basslines round here back in June. But which ska-tinged tracks featured the following lyrics?

1 *"Got a hole in my pocket/My pocket/My pocket"*

2 *"Airwaves beam from the light on the tower/Get my kicks from your eleventh hour"*

3 *"Is it your genes/Or lack of money?"*

4 *"Just cause he's had a coupla cans/He thinks it's alright to act like a dickhead"*

5 *"We cheat and we lie and we fight/We don't cry while we try"*

ROUND FIVE: MMMM! DELICIOUS!

"The best Carling Weekend ever!" they said, just as they do every single year, but this time they might not have been talking out of their arses. But how much of the year's greatest Lost Weekend can you remember?

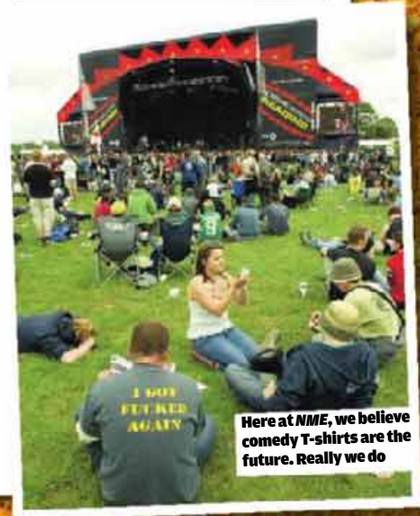
1 Which two singers duetted on '22 Grand Job' onstage with The Rakes at Reading as a replacement for the band's frontman Alan Donohoe?

2 Who changed the lyrics to one of their songs to go "That sarky bloke from the *NME*" at the Leeds festival, in response to a glowing but initially acerbic live review?

3 Which song did the Pixies forget how to play in Leeds?

4 Which band played at both sites in the same day?

5 What colour jacket did Brandon Flowers wear at Reading?



Here at *NME*, we believe comedy T-shirts are the future. Really we do

ROUND SIX WHAT LINKS...

ROUND SEVEN GIGSURPRISE!

We all know that the biggest surprise at any gig this year was Pete Doherty actually turning up, but to whom did these similarly astonishing events occur in 2005?

1 Rugby-tackled in San Francisco.

2 Fell through a trapdoor in the stage in Tampa.

3 Joined by Keith Allen, dressed as a matador, riding a massive stuffed horse.

4 Upstaged by an inflatable dinosaur.

5 Pelted with eggs by Kelly Osbourne.

WIN! WIN! WIN!

AN HMV HAMPER WORTH OVER £1,000, SIGNED FRANZ BOOTY AND EXCLUSIVE HAND-DRAWN FANBOY ARTWORK

Reckon you're a bit of a brainiac, eh? Well, if you managed to finish the quiz and didn't just answer "Johnny Borrell's massive ego" for every question, send your completed answer form to: Big Massive Annual NME Christmas Quiz Fandango™, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. Alternatively email your answers to *xmasquiz@nme.com*. The readers with the most correct answers will be placed in a hat and drawn in descending order.

IPC Media Ltd's normal terms and condition apply to this competition (available at *NME.COM*). The judge's decision is final and there is no cash alternative. The closing date is January 7.

1st PRIZE!

A BOX OF GOOD STUFF, COURTESY OF HMV

Featuring signed albums from Kaiser Chiefs, Paul Weller, The Dead 60s and The Killers, 20 CDs including Hard-Fi and Franz Ferdinand, the funniest comedy and best music DVDs of 2006, enough books to keep you going until at least the summer, T-shirts and a 2006 calendar.

HMV is Top Dog for Christmas gifts, featuring the widest selection of music, DVDs and games available – in the high street across 200 stores nationwide and online with free P&P at *www.hmv.co.uk*.

HMV also offers a comprehensive range of related products, including the latest music books, calendars, interactive DVD board games and rock and pop T-shirts.

If you'd rather let your family or friends decide what they would like for Christmas, then you don't have a better choice than the HMV gift card – which can be easily loaded with credits up to £500 and topped up at any time.

You can also download and subscribe to your favourites tracks from the brand new HMV Digital service – to get started, pick up a free CD-rom in-store, where you'll also find a selection of MP3 players, or simply download the software direct from *www.hmv.co.uk*.

2nd PRIZE!

SIGNED FRANZ FLOTSAM

Ten entrants will each win a Franz Ferdinand funbag, featuring a copy of the band's latest album, a calendar, a single and a copy of their excellent new live DVD, all signed by the band themselves. And you can be sure it's genuine, because we witnessed them doing it. So there.

RUNNERS-UP PRIZES!

FANBOY OVERLOAD

Five lucky entrants will win prints signed by *NME*'s resident cartoon genius, Fanboy, plus five original Fanboy sketches, and five CDs by Former Bullies, graced with Fanboy artwork. We spoil you, really we do.

ELLIS PARRINDER/ANDY WILLSHER/SAM JONES/SEAN CHALKLEY/GETTY/SEBASTIAN ARTZ/ED MILES/ANDY FALLON/PLETER M VAN HATTEM/LANDMARK

OFFICIAL VOTING FORM

SHOCK WAVES OOHS

NME AWARDS 2006

ATTACK OF THE TRIUMPHANT ROCK STARS!

Their fate is in YOUR hands!

- Best British Band
  Supported by ShockWaves
- Best International Band
  Supported by 4 Music
- Best Solo Artist
- Best New Band
  Supported by Radio 1
- Best Live Band
  Supported by Carling
- Best Album
  Supported by HMV
- Best Track
- Best Live Venue
- Best Live Event
  Supported by lastminute.com
- Best Video
  Supported by MTV2
- Best Music DVD
- Best TV Show
- Best Radio Show
- Best Film
- Best Website
- Hero Of The Year
- Villain Of The Year
- Sexiest Man
- Sexiest Woman
- Best Dressed
  Supported by Topman
- Worst Dressed
- Worst Album
- Worst Band

Vote now and WIN!

The names of everyone that votes, either via the paper or online, will be entered into a big hat and the one drawn out next February will win TWO VIP BALCONY PASSES to the ShockWaves NME Awards 2006 themselves, allowing you to quite literally rub shoulders with the stars on the big day!

How to vote: Online Point your browser at WWW.NME.COM/AWARDS and fill in our quick and easy-to-use digital voting form. By Post Complete this here form, cut it out, stick it in an envelope, attach a stamp and send the whole kit and caboodle to: NME Awards Voting, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS

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Age

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REMEMBER YOU CAN VOTE ONLINE AT WWW.NME.COM/AWARDS

When rock stars VOTE!

The stars have their say

Billy Lunn, The Subways

Best British Band
KAISER CHIEFS

Best International Band
ROYKSOPP

Best Solo Artist
GWEN STEFANI

Best New Band
THE TWENTY TWOS

Best Track
'I BET YOU LOOK GOOD ON THE DANCEFLOOR' – ARCTIC MONKEYS

Best Video
'FOREVER LOST' – THE MAGIC NUMBERS

Best Live Event
THE CARLING WEEKEND: READING AND LEEDS FESTIVAL

Best TV Show
LOST

Best Radio Show
SCOTT MILLS (RADIO 1)

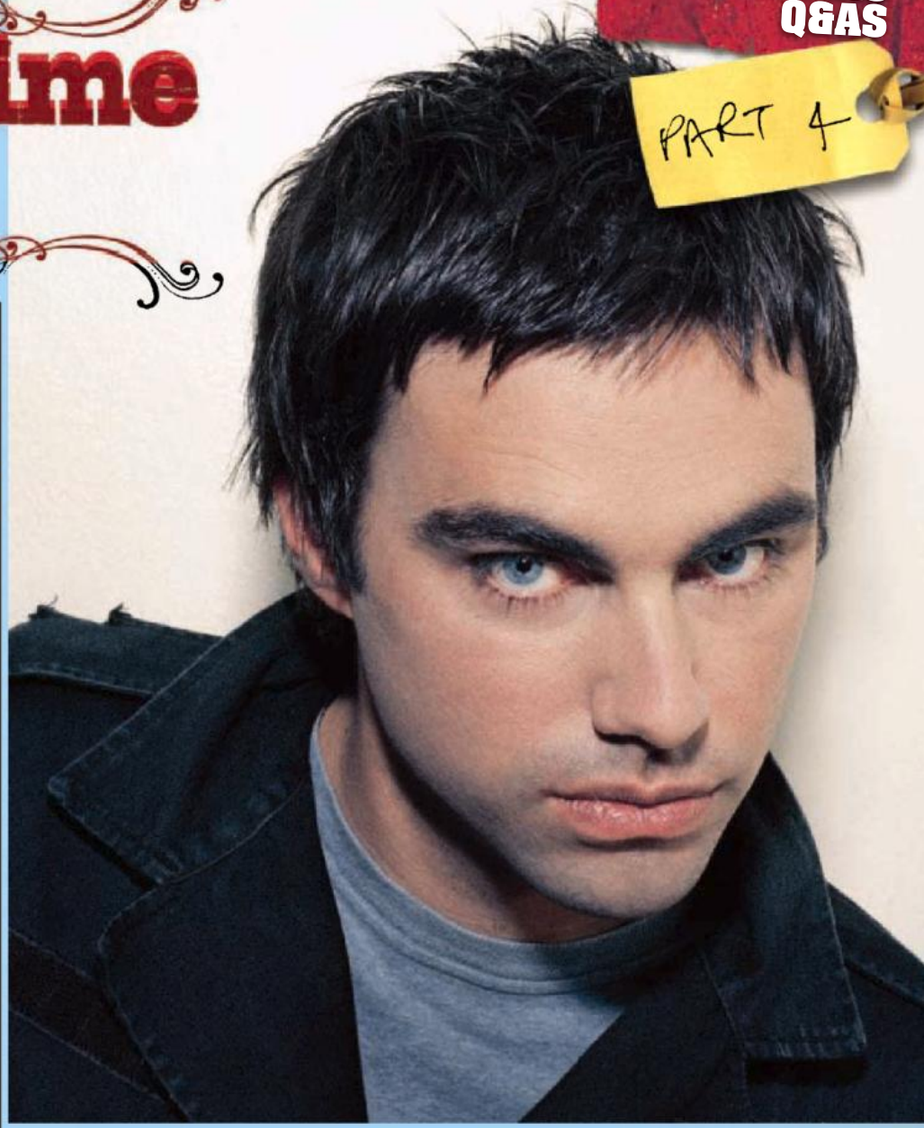
Best Website
MYSPACE.COM

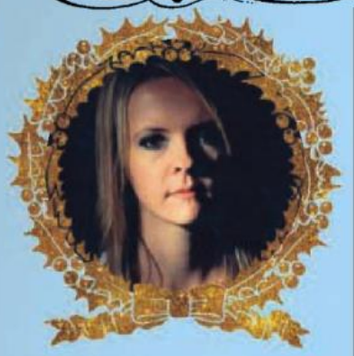
Worst Band
G4

The ShockWaves NME Awards 2006: Be excited. Be very excited

Christmastime for heroes

PART 4





CHARLOTTE COOPER THE SUBWAYS
Sorry, she's engaged

Where will you be this Christmas?
"At my parents'. I'll do lunch at home with them and then my whole family will be driving over to Billy and Josh's house for cocktails later on in the day."

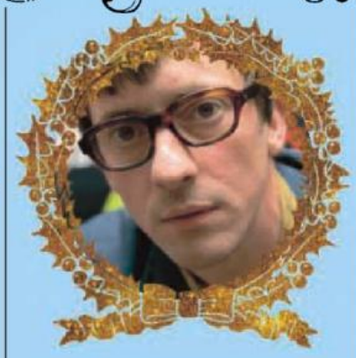
What's been the best thing to happen to you during 2005?
"Playing the Carling Weekend. It was the first big gig after the LP came out and everyone was singing along and the tent was rammed."

Which member of the band have you come closest to hitting this year and why?
"Probably both of them on different occasions. It stems from being the only girl and them not understanding that as a girl you need more stuff because you have to change every day. They don't need to do that because they're boys."

Have you set a date for your wedding to Billy yet?
"Not yet – we just want to go with the flow. We'll just have to see what happens, but we might have to fit it in with the band schedule."

Have you had any disappointed boys (or girls, for that matter) telling you how sad they are that you're getting married?
"No, but Billy has had a few. Girls are more willing to say things like that than boys."

Complete this sentence: "The real meaning of Christmas is...."
"Seeing all your friends and family. We're not home any more, so Christmas is the only time we get to see all the people we don't see all year."



GRAHAM COXON
Uncrowned King Of All Camden

Where will you be this Christmas?
"I'm going to be in London getting into a massive flap in the kitchen and telling everyone to get out of my way while I cook. I'm cooking lots of meat and lots of vegetables. And I'm trying to get my mum's centuries-old recipe for mushy peas. I love Christmas dinner. Breakfast too. Christmas breakfast is weird: pickled eggs and red cabbage and pork pie. I used to hate that when I was in my late teens and a bit hungover from the night before, but actually red cabbage cuts through a boozy mouth quite well.

"You have a large tot of rum in the coffee, which means you start floating pretty soon"

Then you have a large tot of rum in the coffee, which means that on Christmas Day you start floating pretty soon."

What's the worst present you've ever given?
"I'm a terrible present-giver. I forget and leave it until the last minute and get into a dreadful flap. It gets harder the more old and grumpy you get, as well. But when you have kids you can't be grumpy. You have to be Santa…"

Complete this sentence: "The real meaning of Christmas is...."
"Feasting and song. And getting a big fat stomach ready for the hideous winter. I believe in Christmas – not the religious side of it necessarily, I just kind of dig it as an event."

RICHARD ARCHER HARD-FI
Staines' indie-ska laureate

Where will you be this Christmas?
"I think me and my brother are going to go to a restaurant. I lost my mother in the summer, so it's our first Christmas without her. We're just going to go out and get fucking wasted. Then Hard-Fi are playing a show on New Year's Eve. My New Year's Eves have been crap for about the last five years. I've given up going to clubs because they're always really expensive and they're always over-sold so you can't move. So I've long ago thought, 'Bollocks to that.' This year we're doing a show in Edinburgh, which will be cool. Plus the beer will be free, and that's always a good thing."

Pussycat Dolls: mutton dressed as kitten?

What's the worst Christmas present you've ever given?
"There's plenty, but the worst I've ever received was from my brother. Once he gave me a fucking Christmas card with a cheque in it for 30 quid. I was like, 'You didn't have to do that.' And he said, 'Actually, that's the money I owe you.' One year he gave me an Orange Aero. Git."

Complete this sentence: "The real meaning of Christmas is...."
"Overeating? And turkey. Well, you have to have it once a year, don't you?"

Got any good hangover cures?
"I'd been told about this stuff that you drink the night before and it restores some balance in your body and stops hangovers completely. My next door neighbour made some last Christmas. We both drank it and puked up. I didn't feel like drinking much after that. So it sort of did the trick."

What are you hoping for under the tree this year?
"Under the Christmas tree I'd like... (*Thinks for ages*) Fucking hell. What would I like for Christmas?"

A BMX?
"I never had a BMX. I had a racing bike – I was fucking ostracised for it at school."

Are you – like us – hoping you might get to kiss The Pussycat Dolls under the mistletoe this Christmas?
"We did *CD:UK* with them, and up close I have to say they were a little bit… they're a bit older from what I could tell. Somewhere along the line they've pulled out a few tricks."

DAVID ELLIS/ANDREW KENDALL/DEAN CHALKLEY

WORDS: ALEX NEEDHAM PHOTOGRAPHS: PIETER M VAN HATTEM

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS!

Join The Magic Numbers as they drink with Shane MacGowan, ruin kids' dreams of Santa and watch their uncle rolling naked in the snow

Booze – it's the gift that keeps on giving, a crucial Christmas ingredient if you're not to go completely insane. It's also something much loved by The Magic Numbers. You join us in the dressing room of the Mercury Lounge, New York, where siblings Michele and Romeo Stodart (bass and guitar) and Sean and Angela Gannon (drums and vocals) are having a few pre-show liveners before bewitching yet another audience with their dreamy, creamy, harmony-garlanded pop. Since last night's epic drinking session ended at nine o'clock this morning, hair of the dog is more than in order ("Coming out of that bar and it was daylight – I thought I was going to cry," wails Angela).

They've got plenty to celebrate. The end of the year which has seen them wow the festivals, sell albums by the cartload (400,000 in the UK) and get acclaimed by megastars like Brian Wilson and Noel Gallagher, not to mention showing *Top Of The Pops* and Richard Bacon where to stick it. New York, too, is the place where Romeo and Michele spent their formative years, between childhood in Trinidad and adulthood in London.

Before all that, however, as New York outside gears itself up for its annual seasonal frenzy, it's time to talk Christmas. "It's always a big deal in our family," twinkles Michele. "Our uncle always bought the biggest tree. One year he had to drill a hole in the ceiling to get it in."

"We didn't have to put an angel on the top because no-one could see it," elaborates Romeo, whose beardness and good vibes make him the nearest we'll get to an indie Santa.

The Gannons' Christmas seems somewhat more hedonistic. "On Christmas Day," announces Sean, the Numbers' most raffish character, "what I normally do is get up with a hangover because I've been out with friends the night before. Then I go to the pub until about three o'clock…'

"…get in the pub as soon as it opens," comments Angela.

A former barman, Sean once got sacked on Christmas Eve. "I was working in a restaurant and by nine o'clock I couldn't stand up. So they told me to go home and never come back. So I got even more drunk so I wouldn't have to worry about it."

Then there's presents. The best gift Sean ever got was, "a green stretch monster. It was jelly stuff you could stretch from there to there. But I left him on the fuckin' radiator one day. I got a pool table once too. My parents tried to hide it from me by covering it up and putting it in the spare room. I went in one day and had a little peep and that's how I found there wasn't a Santa Claus. I went, 'Dammit! No Santa Claus. I'm going to tell my little brother.'"

"I had a doll called Suzie Snapshot which was pretty cool," muses Angela. "You'd point a camera as she moves and poses. But I found that in the cupboard under the stairs. That's how I found out. I do think it's a terrible lie, though, Santa Claus," she laughs. "It breaks kids' hearts when they find out."

> **"It's a terrible lie, Santa. It breaks kids' hearts!"**
> **Angela Gannon**

"I got a four-track when I was about 15," says Romeo, the band's songwriter. "It was on a list. We'd make lists of things we'd like…"

"…and leave them in obvious places," laughs Angela.

"My favourite Christmas present was a very belated one – an acoustic guitar," adds Michele. "They always told me I'd get it for Christmas but I didn't, then I'd wait another Christmas and I still didn't… I was 17 when I got it and maybe 10 when I asked for it. I'm very patient, that's the best thing about me."

For Christmas this year, Romeo wants a new iPod, Michele wants recording equipment the band can use on the tour bus and Sean wants a parachute jump – "We fly a lot so just in case anything happens on the plane, I can be like, 'It's OK, man, I can fly'." Angela's undecided.

"Hair straighteners?" asks Romeo.

"No, I've got about 10 of them," says Angela.

"How about a dog?" asks Sean.

"No," says Angela firmly. "Our dog died last week. You can't replace her that quickly. I'm going to get a tattoo of her name, Katie – please put that in so people don't think I'm a lesbian." Everyone falls about.

Like anyone else with taste in music, The Magic Numbers aren't particularly bothered by what's going to be Christmas Number One. They've got their minds on higher things, such as writing a song for the Trinidad football team, who qualified for next year's World Cup.

Sean (top left) couldn't find a clean glass for his beer, so the box had to do

"In 1990," says Romeo, "they were one game away from getting into the World Cup. Then to celebrate, the whole team and manager went out drinking, and then the next day when they were due to play the final game they were all too wasted."

"A bit like us today," smiles Angela.

This talk of drunken tomfoolery can't go by without a mention of Sean and Angela's uncle. "He was over from Australia and he hadn't been to England for years," remembers Sean. "It started snowing and I just remember him getting really drunk and going into the garden at night and just flinging himself in the snow."

"He had bare feet," adds Angela.

"He had no top on either!" says Sean. "He was rolling around in it like a dog."

So, er, do people normally get naked at your house at Christmas?

"He was so excited seeing the snow he took his top off," says Sean. "You'd understand if you met him."

If they could spend Christmas with anyone in the world (friends and family excepted), Angela would like a "dark Christmas" with Nick Cave, Romeo would hang out with Santa at the North Pole and Michele would spend it with Brian Wilson. "We'd just jam and make a silly Christmas classic and release it," she chuckles.

Sean, however, would spend Christmas trawling the bars of the Big Apple with Shane McGowan, who co-wrote The Magic Numbers' all-time favourite Christmas song, The Pogues' 'Fairytale Of New York' (which the band have been known to perform at karaoke nights). "I've had a couple of drinks with him before," reveals Sean. "I met him last year at Glastonbury. He gave our mate Steve £20 and said, 'Get as many vodka and tonics with that as you can'. It would be a great Christmas – although I might not make it to the New Year."

There's only one question left to be asked – what would The Magic Numbers get Richard Bacon for Christmas? "I was waiting for that," groans Romeo. "I think we've got enough presents to buy already but if anything comes to mind I'll let you know."

"He doesn't need to enter our life any more to even think about buying him anything," adds Angela serenely. And with that, bonhomie is restored and The Magic Numbers set about preparing for their gig, where they'll spread peace and goodwill to (nearly) all men in the inexorable march to Christmas. II

JINGLE BALLS!

The history of Xmas in rock, maybe

2004

Who's this at the end of 2004? Why it's Band Aid 20. After Christmas Number Ones in 1984 and 1989, this third time finds the charity megastars ringing the few last drops of soul from 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' Surely by now they do: those poor sods are starving, not deaf.

The Magic Numbers (l-r) Michele, Sean, Angela and Romeo: all tied up for the Chrimbo period now

WORDS: RICH PELLEY

The Xmas Factor

Forget Simon Cowell, NME has gathered the most opinionated experts to let rip on the year's most significant tracks. This could get messy...

YOUR PANEL

CHARLOTTE CHURCH
Liam's favourite
Likes: *Dirty Dancing*
Hates: Rudeness

IAN BROWN
King of the monkeys
Likes: Groove
Hates: The '80s

ALAN DONOHOE
Sings in The Rakes
Likes: Vernon Kay
Hates: Oasis

DONNY AND DIRK TOURETTE
Scuzz brothers from Towers Of London
Like: Nothing
Hate: Everything

'SPEED OF SOUND' COLDPLAY

Donny: "I'd rather strangle myself with fucking tinsel than listen to this. They bore the tits off me."
Ian: "It sounds so like Echo And The Bunnymen, it amazes me how they've got away with it."
Alan: "Chris Martin's lyrics never make any sense, but sound a bit deep and spiritual so you get hooked in."
Charlotte: "I liked 'Fix You', but this is just bland."
Ian: "I can't stand the way the guy sells millions of albums, plays stadiums, marries a Hollywood star and complains about the paparazzi. That's comes with the territory."
Donny: "I bet really he's a groupie-shagging, cocaine-snorting whore."
Ian: "It's a horrible name, Coldplay. It doesn't conjure up any positive thoughts. He looks like he's on the verge of a panic attack."
Donny: "I'd like to give Codplay (*sic*) a big thumbs down with one of those big hands from football matches."

'LYLA' OASIS

Charlotte: "I love this song. Liam's slightly whiney, but he's got a hard, gruff voice and he doesn't sing all quiet and stupid."
Ian: "I think 'Don't Believe The Truth' is their best for years. It's really '60s, bits of The Kinks, bits of The Beatles, bits of the Stones. It sounds really well played."
Dirk: "It's good to see them growing older. It's the attitude. The walk and the talk. They're geezers and they're fucking funny as fuck."
Charlotte: "I'll never say anything bad about Oasis for the rest of my life."
Alan: "I find it bland and boring and unnecessary and rubbish. I have liked the odd Oasis song through the years. But as a rule – NO."
Ian: "I love the pair of them. They can do what they want for me."

'AXEL F' CRAZY FROG

Charlotte: "Awful. Hate it. My cousin bought it and I was *very* angry with him."
Donny: "A few of my mates have got the ringtone and that's unforgivable. It's a fucking frog. Perhaps the 'Reservoir Frog' remix will be better? (*Puts it on*). Nope. It's shit."
Ian: "It sounds like when the Italians used to do house in '88. To come up with something so stupid and make money, I've got to give him credit. But it's worse than 'The Birdie Song'."

"I'd rather strangle myself with tinsel than listen to this" Donny Tourette on Coldplay's 'Speed Of Sound'

Towers combine 'YMCA' with a Christmas panto horse. Bad idea

'YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL' JAMES BLUNT

Alan: "After the Club NME Tour in Nottingham I checked into the wrong hotel and had stripped down to my pants when the phone rang. My tour manager went, 'Get out of that hotel room. It's James Blunt's.'"
Dirk: "My bird's mum loves this so I better not say anything bad."
Ian: "Why does he sing with that yelp and yodel? He must have got his bottom tickled all day in the Marines for singing like that."
Charlotte: "I've said quite a lot of bad things about James Blunt and then I met him and felt really bad. He's a good singer-songwriter, but I can't stick this."

Alan Rake *does* want to, apparently

'DO YOU WANT TO' FRANZ FERDINAND

Donny: "It's Franz Ferdinand at their most formulaic."
Charlotte: "At least he's singing properly, it's not that whiney 'I've-just-come-off-heroin' sound, like Chris Martin. I hate that."
Ian: "I like the way they've brought art back into music."
Alan: "It's filthy. I really like it. Good work, Mr Franz."
Ian: "I can understand why Kanye West is into them. They've got a groove. I don't like music that's awkward or angular."

'BLUE ORCHID' THE WHITE STRIPES

Dirk: "It sounds like a woman."
Charlotte: "I wouldn't sing this to myself when I'm getting ready for a night out. I prefer a bit of *Dirty Dancing*."
Ian: "I like his falsetto. It's brave to sing like that. Fortune favours the brave."
Alan: "It doesn't hold my attention. Every time I hear it I just start thinking about my dinner."

LULA CAMUS/ANDY FALLON/PHIL WALLIS/DEAN CHALKLEY ADDITIONAL WORDS: ALAN "SCOTCH" WOODHOUSE

'FUCK FOREVER' BABYSHAMBLES

Charlotte: "I can't bear Pete Doherty. He can't even sing in tune. He gets right on my tits."
Alan: "It's a bit shambolic. But perhaps that's the whole point."
Ian: "It's rebel music. It's got edge, spirit and attitude. To call your single 'Fuck Forever' is brilliant."
Donny: "Radio 1 sent it back to them."
Ian: "They didn't ban it? They sent it back? That's what's it's all about!"

Taff luck Pete: Charlie's not a fan

"I can't bear Pete Doherty. He can't even sing in tune. He gets right on my tits"
Charlotte Church

'I PREDICT A RIOT' KAISER CHIEFS

Alan: "I read an article recently about the philosophy of music (*!? – Ed*) that said pop music isn't a genre, it's just anything that sells. But this is a very good pop song."
Ian: "They've got that gang mentality. I love the way the drummer writes all the songs."
Donny: "Ricky seems to pull a sort of magic elf pose in every picture."
Ian: "He's too short to wear boxing boots, too."
Charlotte: "It doesn't sound like a riot is imminent to me."
Ian: "This song is like early Pink Floyd psychedelia then it jumps into '77 punk. They believe in themselves."

'ALL THESE THINGS THAT I'VE DONE' THE KILLERS

Charlotte: "I like the *'I've got soul but I'm not a soldier'* lyric."
Alan: "I'd write, *'I've got beer, but I'm not a builder'*. At least that makes sense."
Donny: "I bought the album for my dad last year and had a listen."
Charlotte: "My cousin loves them and asked me to go and get the lead singer's autograph when they supported U2 in Cardiff. And he was rude. Maybe he's just shy. But how can a shy boy wear eyeliner?"
Ian: "He looks good. They're nice fellas. I've met them. They've all got really beautiful girlfriends so they must have something going on. Crap name, but good luck to them."

'SOMEWHERE ELSE' RAZORLIGHT

Donny: "'Somewhere Else' is where I'd like to be when this is playing."
Ian: "I like the way he's such a big head. He calls himself the new Bob Dylan. That's great. Blow your own trumpet. No-one else is going to do it. I don't think he is the new Bob Dylan though."
Dirk: "It's music for girls."
Alan: "Me and my sister used to impersonate Michael Knight from *Knight Rider* when he used to talk into his watch to talk to KITT. He sings like that."

Razorlight's scratch'n'sniff sleeve displeased Donohoe

'AN HONEST MISTAKE' THE BRAVERY

Ian: "It's all about making yourself look good for girls, which is boring."
Alan: "I met the guy who wears eyeliner in Camden once. He didn't have the eyeliner on but my girlfriend offered to lend him some."
Donny: "He's got a good quiff. I wonder how it stays up like that?"
Charlotte: "This sounds like an '80s disco song. It's OK. "
Ian: "I hate all that '80s crap. It just reminds me why we started the Roses."

'TRAPPED IN THE CLOSET' R KELLY

Charlotte: "He might as well be having a conversation the way he sang it."
Alan: "I like that it's a tale about him cheating on his wife, but I hope it's not a true story, because she's probably going to kill him if she hears it. Should have thought about that one, R."
Dirk: "Has he actually come out of the closet? He's better off staying at home in the closet away from kids if you ask me."

'DARE' GORILLAZ

Ian: "They were going to call it 'It's There' but Shaun couldn't say 'there' so they called it 'DARE'. I know the guy who was the recording engineer on it and he was, like, 'One, two, three, four…' and it took Shaun five hours to come in."
Charlotte: "I like this because you can't place it in a genre. It could be urban, it could be housey. I like the whole idea of Gorillaz. What a way to get out of doing promotion!"
Ian: "I never appreciated what a good music-maker Damon Albarn is. My kids and their mother love it. It's a great achievement to hit every generation."

'IS THIS THE WAY TO AMARILLO' TONY CHRISTIE FEATURING PETER KAY

Ian: "My ma's a big fan of Tony Christie. She's seen him about 20 times. So If I want a Christmas dinner this year I'd better not slag her record."
Charlotte: "You just can't help but sing along, no matter how cheesy."
Donny: "Rev, our guitarist, is from Morecambe and he does a great impression of Peter Kay. So thumbs up for the fat man."
Alan: "I originally thought it was by Vernon Kay. He's alright, Big Vern. That's one of the original reasons I liked it."
Ian: "I met Tony Christie this year. A fella came up and went, 'Can I have my picture with you? I'm a big fan,' and said, 'Actually my dad's Tony Christie.' So I went to meet him. He was made up."

Ian thinks the Gorillaz are top banana

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Louis XIV
Jealousy

Test Icicles
What's Your Damage

THIS WEEK'S VIDEO TOP 10

		LAST WEEK	
1 ▲		1	**Arcade Fire** **Wake Up** T-Mobile customers get the realtone – text wakeup22 (10p) to 22222 (£3.00) A thousand cockerels have been enlisted by fitness fanatics Arcade Fire, just to make sure they all get up in time for their morning run.
2 ▲		2	**The Strokes** **Juicebox** Julian Casablancas says he "can't believe" that he hadn't noticed Ribena's Toothkind brand until recently.
3 ▲		6	**Queens Of The Stone Age** **Burn The Witch** When someone asked Josh Homme if he would like a ginger snap on their recent UK tour, he had to be physically restrained. "I thought it was a wind-up", he later admitted.
4 ▲		5	**Guillemots** **Trains To Brazil** The UK government say they are going to build a tunnel from the UK's west coast to Brazil after hearing this song. The trip will take 318 hours.
5 ▼		4	**Hard-Fi** **Cash Machine** T-Mobile customers get the ringtone – text hardfi23 (10p) to 22222 (£2.50) Hard-Fi frontman Richard Archer has been offered a guest slot on *The Archers* – ironically his mooted character is known for drinking Archers.
6 ▲		9	**Editors** **Munich** The band say they're "ecstatic" that Munich will be one of the venues of the 2006 World Cup.
7 ▲		8	**Sigur Rós** **Hoppipolla** Sigur Rós have issued a statement saying they will "kill or maim" the next music journalist who calls them "geysers".
8 ▼		7	**Mystery Jets** **Alas Agnes** After Dennis and Agnes, the next name the band plan to use in a song title is "probably Raymond".
9 ▼		3	**The Futureheads** **Area** The Futureheads now have a tribute band called Pastfeet.
10 NEW ENTRY		–	**The Subways** **No Goodbyes** Charlotte has a medical condition which means she cannot say 'Hello' or 'Goodbye'. "I get round it by saying, 'Howdy' and 'Ta-ra'," she reveals.

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BEHIND THE VIDEO

The Futureheads
Area
Director: Barnaby Roper

"I got the visual idea from two places. The first is a Neil Young album called 'American Stars'n'Bars'. The cover has a shot that is underneath a bar looking up while he is face down on it and there's a girl standing on it. It's a weird angle. The second is one of those wind-up toys you had when you were a kid. It's like a revolving storyboard that you have to constantly wind to keep the story going round but it can stop at any point that isn't necessarily the start.

We used motion-control cameras for the shoot, which made things difficult. It's essentially a camera that is used for post-heavy shoots when you are going to add a load of layers. It allows you to capture the same shot over and over again. It was more like physics than film-making, trying to work out distances and angles.

The good thing is that it doesn't matter where you come in or out because of the constant movement so you can blow things up and it looks like different shots.

The band were great too. They were very, very professional, no freak-outs. They went off to make their second album the next day."

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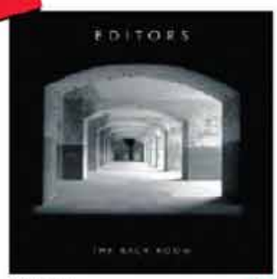

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LIVE!

The week's best gigs

Edited by Cat Goodwin

Franz Ferdinand

▶ Alexandra Palace, London

▶ Wednesday, November 30 - Saturday, December 3

"Is that... no, it can't be! IT IS!! RIGHT SAID FRED!!!"

For four nights in a row, in one of the capital's biggest venues, it's clear that lots and lots of you *do* want to

Franz Ferdinand playing four nights at Ally Pally is the end-of-year party to end all end-of-year parties. In the year that British music ate the world, chewed it for a bit, spat it out, danced on it until it felt a bit woozy and had to sit down like it had too many shandies at a family wedding, Franz Ferdinand are the natural hosts for what feels like Hogmanay come early. This is the year Franz made their second album, and leapt from art-rock stylistas to mainstream straddlers without losing an ounce of their cool or mystique in the process.

To celebrate four nights of the bombastic, they've brought a spinning wheel of ecstatically eclectic support bands, but it makes sense considering this is the band who list Kanye, Kylie and Joseph K among their influences. On the first two nights **The Rakes** play, taking Franz's angular template, and adding a touch of Epworth angst and hey-young-London dread, they are anchored by singer Alan Donohoe's schizo dance moves and shout outs to kebab shops in Turnham Green. **Editors**' muscular thrash-pop has turned librarian-on-holiday singer Tom Smith into a guns blazing frontman of Clark Kent/Superman proportions.

On Friday the **The Long Blondes** are monumental. As Kate Jackson sings about stupid girls and immature boys on the likes of 'Autonomy Boy' and 'Giddy Stratospheres', she commands your attention like a proper star pricking youthful pretence in the eye. Sadly, **Roots Manuva** goes down less well. In the age of Fiddy, his daisy age eight-piece collective mish-mash of DJs and new age talk of the "*boat that brought us to life*" smacks of the dated touchy-feely vibe of Stereo MCs circa 1990.

As Franz come onstage to the gyrating wail of 'This Boy' it's clear they are intent on working the sheer audacious *bigness* of Ally Pally. It's The 'Franz! New Stadium Size' show, with the slick stage-dressing making it feel like a '70s Saturday night game show. As the curtain falls down to reveal a huge red flashing question mark during 'Do You Want To' – our favourite use of grammar in indie since ¡Forward, Russia! – you half expect Bruce Forsyth to leap out of the awning and turn round a giant spangly four of diamonds card. This is amplified by judicious use of the spotlight, huge banners sporting black and white photographs of the band, and Alex Kapranos' cheesy Vegas-style band introductions during '40ft' and 'Michael'. Long gone is the singer's skinny-tie ice cool – he's now the Alpha leader, often dressed in Dior, and his Jarvis Cocker-isms and vocal tics suggest nothing less than a bona fide star. But the band are still the gang you want to be part of – as Alex, Nick, Bob (and "fifth Franz" Andy Knowles) do a tribal huddle around Paul's drumkit during 'Darts Of Pleasure' it seems 6,000 people want to leap up onstage and join them.

It's clear Franz are intent on working the sheer bigness of Ally Pally

Songs from new album 'You Could Have It So Much Better' take pride of place in the band's set and outshine their former glories; 'This Boy' out-pops 'Jacqueline', 'The Fallen' gallops over 'Darts Of Pleasure' while 'Walk Away' and 'Eleanor Put Your

ANDY WILLSHER/PIETER M VANHAYTEM

Paul: "I've got the tightest trousers!"
Bob: "No, I have!"
Alex: "No, I have!"
Nick: "The camera never lies, my friends"

Kate Long Blonde: the belle of the ball

Tom Smith, Editors: we'd be gloomy if we had to play four nights at Ally Pally, too

Alan Rake: "I wanna see some epileptic dancing out there!"

Boots On' are milked for all their subtle charms. When 'Do You Want To' rings through the auditorium, propelled by Nick and Alex's double-fretted guitar posing and Bob's amp mounting, the whole crowd sing the "*DOO/DOO/DOO*"s in their matching Dennis The Menace shirts. It's an unforgettable moment of 2005, and a vision of a band at the very peak of their powers. ***Priya Elan***

"WELL HERE WE ARE AT THE FRANZ FERDINAND PARTY..."

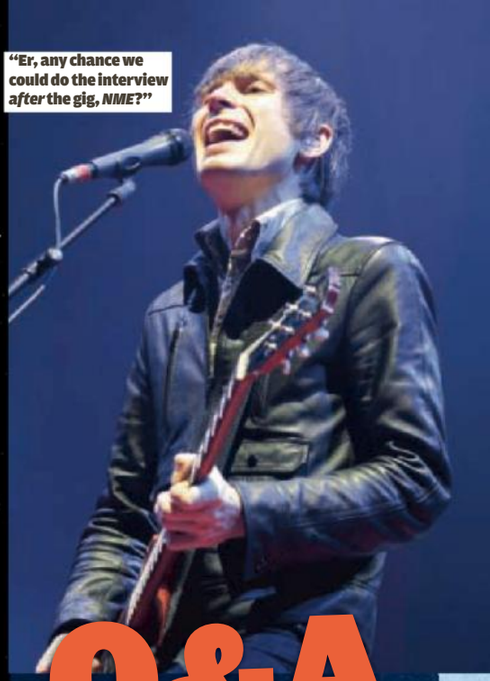
Eleanor Friedberger: boots not pictured

The band have hired a warehouse in Kings Cross to have the mother of all bashes after finishing their UK tour. Revellers are transported from the venue in buses to dance the night away with the band.

So amid a sea of floral dresses, stripey T-shirts and, in the case of one *NME* staffer, a Fred Perry shirt and braces, we are treated to sets from Franz faves **The 1990s** and **Pro Forma**. **The Kills**, Mr Kapranos' squeeze **Eleanor Friedberger** and, bizarrely, **QPR's** captain **Kevin Gallen** are among those joining in the fun. *NME* manages a quick chat with Alex, but as soon as he stands still in one place he's surrounded by well wishers. Well, we love the sound of him walking away...

WHAT YOU THOUGHT

"They were really good. Amazing! Our favourite songs were 'Michael', 'Take Me Out' and 'Do You Want To'. We think Alex is a legend." **Thomas, James and Andreas, 12, London**



"Er, any chance we could do the interview *after* the gig, *NME*?"

Q&A WITH ALEX KAPRANOS

How does it feel to be playing Ally Pally four nights in a row?
Alex: "It's pretty intense. It's amazing. You never know what it's going to be like in a venue of this size."

How do you think the newer material is going down?
"A lot of the newer songs are going down better than the older songs. It's weird, some of the songs, like 'Walk Away' and 'Eleanor Put Your Boots On' that I didn't expect to go down well live are going down amazingly."

Is there a concept behind the stage show?
"*(Laughs)* It's partly to make a spectacle and partly to put on a show. We wanted to make this bigger and grander without being too fussy. We've always gone for simple colour schemes and dramatic effects and it's a continuation of that. As for the TV screens, we've gone away from that glitzy festival vibe and gone for something that resembles something out of a science fiction film."

How did you choose the support bands (The Long Blondes, The Rakes, Editors, Roots Manuva, The Cribs and Unpoc)?
"We made a list of the bands who we wanted to see ourselves and then from that list we phoned up people to see if they wanted to do it and were available. The Rakes and Editors are both wonderful bands and great guys to hang about with. Last night was the first time I've seen The Long Blondes and they were amazing. Roots Manuva went down so well with the audience, yet he's from the British hip-hop scene, which is a different scene than the one we're from. It's a good time for British music and it feels good to embrace it."

How do you feel about everyone co-opting your stripes-on-top style?
"There's a sense of unity in the audience, which is the way we feel as a band, like a bit of a gang. It's good to feel like the audience tunes into that."

LIVE!

Antony giggles as Boy George licks his trainers clean

ANDREW KENDALL

Antony And The Johnsons

▸Shepherd's Bush Empire, London
▸Monday, December 5

The freaks are out to celebrate the NYC underdog's amazing year

Cast your mind back to that glorious night in September; a night when corporate music men (and it's *always* men), identikit indie losers, and their filthy, industry-soiled champions took a battering by a lolloping, impeccably turned out young man called Antony Hegarty. A man with the physique of a rugby prop, and a voice that marked the mid-point where jazz goddess Nina Simone's quavering falsetto stopped and the sound of a dying swan's last gasp began. Remember the longing smile you shared with every freak, weirdo and misshape as they hoiked their hopes and aspirations on the ample shoulders of this curious creation. Remember the night *individuality* won.

Felt good didn't it? And tonight, on the first appearance of a two-night stand in London's plush Shepherd's Bush Empire, the Mercury Prize winner is still cradling the burden of selfdom with flexed muscles and a bumbled smirk. That he arrives onstage in what appears to be a fluffy, green, oversized baby's romper suit only underlines his desire to be the being he is. To be himself and himself only. Is he a man? Is he a girl? Nah, he's a *human being*, and tonight, one that commands reverence with each stab at the ivory keys that lay at the foot of his chubby digits. As he cues up a skeletal take on 'For Today I Am A Boy', backed by the deft touches of his loyal foot soldiers, the Johnsons, the sense of hushed reverence that hangs in the air creates a fog that intoxicates every soul in the room. And as he introduces his former mentor Boy George to accompany him on his achingly beautiful torch song 'You Are My Sister', it's actually the ex-Culture Club singer who plays the subordinate role – himself seemingly in thrall to the gentle (green) giant sat there beside him.

You'd imagine in his darkest hours that Antony dreamt of finding a place like tonight

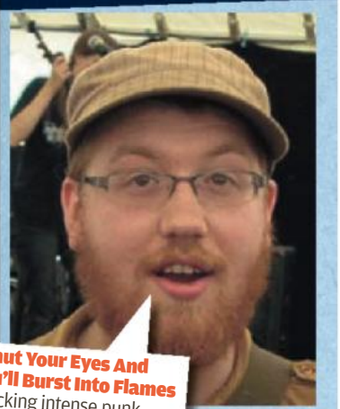
You'd imagine (with weary resignation) that a being like Antony has had a rough time in life. You'd imagine in his darkest hours – like anyone who doesn't quite fit the homogenised mould our society expects – that he dreamt of finding a place like tonight, in the looming surrounds of the Empire, where he might find space to run around, play, and be free. His playthings, the heartstrings of his assembled, respond with unconditional admiration, book-ending his interpretations of obscure NYC street poet/wino Moondog's 'All Is Loneliness' and Canadian bard Leonard Cohen's 'Guests' with absolute rapture. Meanwhile, his hushed reading of the Velvet Underground's precious and pretty 'Candy Says' throbs with longing, and heartbreak – and ultimately – hope. It seals our love with tempered, touching grace.

Tonight, for the multiple same-sex unisons that fill the room (proof more than anything that Antony's magic is reaching those rarely reached out to) the big, the small, the short, the tall, the white, the black, and all the beautiful variations inbetween Antony is *our* champion. On nights like tonight, we're still winning. ***James Jam***

WHAT YOU THOUGHT

"It was magical. I haven't felt that moved at a gig in a long, long time." **Charlotte, 23**

BEST GIG YOU'VE SEEN RECENTLY?



"**Shut Your Eyes And You'll Burst Into Flames** – fucking intense punk dance-rock." **Whiskas, ¡Forward, Russia!**

"I loved **Youth Group** at the Sheffield Leadmill – not only great lyrics, but wonderful pop songs." **Jubby, The Harrisons**

"Two brilliant shows I just went to were **Deerhoof** and the **Radar Brothers**. My favourite two bands in the world." **Anita, Viva Voce**

"**The Childballads**. It's quite folky/country..if there's any justice, they will be huge!" **Sam Endicott, The Bravery**

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10	OXFORD ZODIAC	01865 420 042
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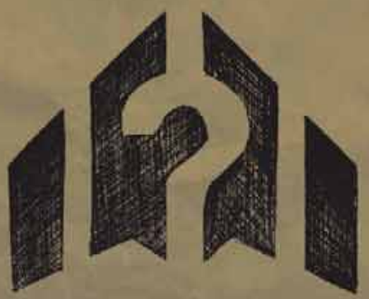

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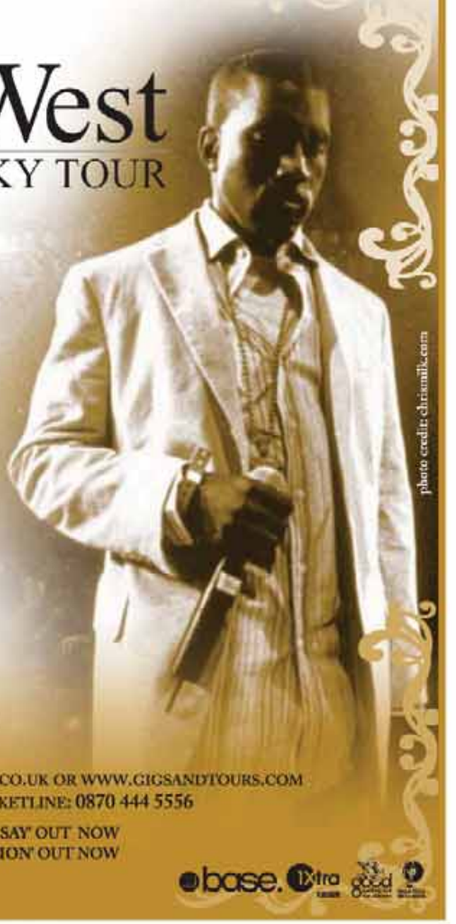

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plus guests

JANUARY 2006

WED	25	BIRMINGHAM GLEE CLUB	0870 241 8083
THU	26	MANCHESTER ACADEMY 3	0161 832 1111
FRI	27	SHEFFIELD LEADMILL	0870 010 4555
SUN	29	LEEDS COCKPIT	0113 244 3446
MON	30	LIVERPOOL ACADEMY	0870 771 2000

FEBRUARY 2006

WED	01	EDINBURGH CABARET VOLTAIRE	0870 169 0 100
THU	02	NEWCASTLE ACADEMY	0870 771 2000
SAT	04	LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH	0870 907 0999

Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com www.reginaspektor.com

A Metropolis Music presentation by arrangement with Helter Skelter

"MARY ANN MEETS THE GRAVEDIGGERS AND OTHER SHORT STORIES BY REGINA SPEKTOR"

In stores January 16, 2006

Metropolis Music, SJM Concerts and ATP by arrangement with Coda present

CALEXICO AND IRON & WINE

Friday 21st April
MANCHESTER ACADEMY
0161 832 1111

Saturday 22nd April
BRISTOL ACADEMY
0870 771 2000

Sunday 23rd April
LONDON FORUM
020 7287 0932, 020 7734 8932, 020 7403 3331

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www.casadecalexico.com

Metropolis Music, ATP, DF and SJM Concerts in association with Helter Skelter present

belle & sebastian

The Civic Pride Tour 2006

january 2006

sunday	15	glasgow ABC	SOLD OUT
monday	16	glasgow ABC	SOLD OUT
tuesday	17	glasgow ABC	SOLD OUT
wednesday	18	aberdeen music hall	01224 641 122
thursday	26	birmingham academy	0870 771 2000
friday	27	liverpool academy	SOLD OUT
saturday	28	newcastle academy	0870 771 2000
sunday	29	manchester ritz	SOLD OUT
monday	30	manchester ritz	SOLD OUT

february 2006

wednesday	01	bristol colston hall	0117 922 3686
thursday	02	cambridge corn exchange	01223 357 851
friday	03	brighton dome	01273 709 709
sunday	05	dublin ambassador	SOLD OUT
monday	06	dublin ambassador	18909 25100
tuesday	07	belfast ulster hall	0870 243 4455
thursday	09	sheffield octagon	SOLD OUT
friday	10	london hammersmith apollo	SOLD OUT

Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com, www.ticketmaster.co.uk
www.seetickets, www.stargreen.com, www.wegottickets.com

New album 'The Life Pursuit' out February 6th
Single 'Funny Little Frog' out January 16th

www. belleandsebastian.com

Metropolis Music, SJM Concerts, DF Concerts, DCB, PVC and Catapult Club in association with ITB present

EDITORS

PLUS GUESTS

BRAKES

FEBRUARY

WEDNESDAY 22 SOLD OUT ...ON ASTORIA
WITH RICHARD HAWLEY / BRAKES / HOWLING BELLS

FRIDAY 24 BRISTOL ACADEMY
0117 929 9008 / www.seetickets.com

SATURDAY 25 SOUTHAMPTON GUILDHALL
023 8063 2601 / www.seetickets.com

SUNDAY 26 NORWICH UEA
01603 50 80 50 / www.gigsandtours.com

MONDAY 27 SOLD OUT ...HESTER ACADEMY

MARCH

WEDNESDAY 01 GLASGOW BARROWLAND
0870 169 0100 / www.gigsinscotland.com

THURSDAY 02 NEWCASTLE ACADEMY
0870 771 2000 / www.gigsandtours.com

FRIDAY 03 SOLD OUT ...NGHAM ACADEMY

'MUNICH' THE NEW SINGLE OUT 2ND JANUARY
'THE BACK ROOM' THE DEBUT ALBUM OUT NOW

WWW.EDITORSOFFICIAL.COM WWW.KITCHENWARERECORDS.COM

GRAHAM COXON

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

MARCH 2006

20	NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY	0191 230 4474
21	LIVERPOOL ACADEMY	0870 771 2000
22	GLASGOW GARAGE	0870 220 1116
23	EDINBURGH LIQUID ROOM	0870 220 1116
25	LEEDS COCKPIT	0113 244 4600
26	NORWICH WATERFRONT	01603 508 050
27	LEICESTER UNIVERSITY	0116 223 1139
28	MANCHESTER RITZ BALLROOM	0161 236 4355
30	CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION	01223 511 511
31	OXFORD ZODIAC	01865 420 042

APRIL 2006

01	NOTTINGHAM MARCUS GARVEY CENTRE BALLROOM	0115 978 8674
02	BRISTOL BIERKELLER	0870 444 4400
04	BRIGHTON CONCORDE	01273 673 311
05	LONDON HAMMERSMITH PALAIS 020 7287 0932, 020 7734 8932, 020 7405 5351	0870 606 3400

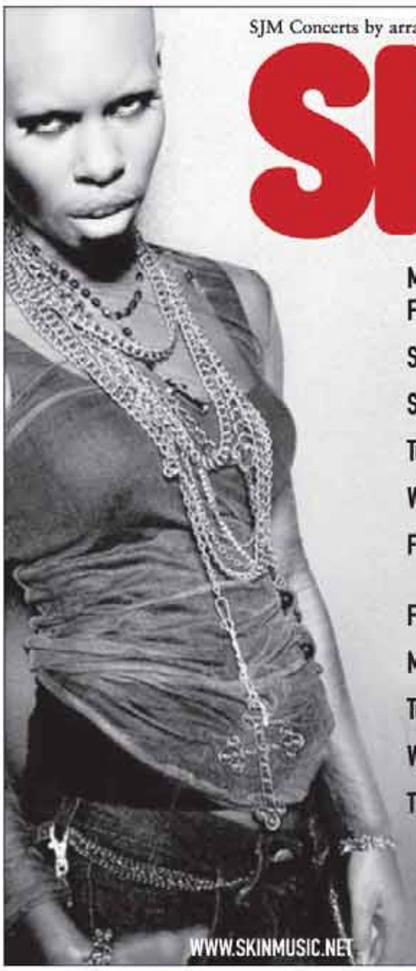
Buy on-line @ www.gigsandtours.com

A Metropolis Music, SJM Concerts & CPL presentation
in association with X-ray

WWW.GRAHAMCOXON.CO.UK

SJM Concerts by arrangement with 13 Artists present

SKIN



MARCH 2006

Fri 17 **GLASGOW KING TUTS** 0870 169 0100
Sat 18 **EDINBURGH LIQUID ROOMS** 0870 169 0100
Sun 19 **SHEFFIELD LEADMILL** 0870 010 4555
Tue 21 **MANCHESTER ACADEMY 3** 0161 832 1111
Wed 22 **BRISTOL FLEECE** 0117 929 9008
Fri 24 **NEWCASTLE CARLING ACADEMY** 0870 771 2000
Fri 25 **READING FEZ** 0118 958 6839
Mon 27 **LEEDS COCKPIT** 0113 245 5570
Tue 28 **NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS** 0115 941 2544
Wed 29 **LONDON KOKO** 020 7403 3331
Thu 30 **PORTSMOUTH WEDGEWOOD ROOMS** 023 9286 3911

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com

New Single Just let the Sun out February 20th
New Album Fake Chemical State out March 2006

WWW.SKINMUSIC.NET

SJM Concerts by arrangement with 13 Artists & EYOE present

TESTICICLES

+Special Guests **HELP SHE CAN'T SWIM** & **LETHAL BIZZLE** (Lond only)

January 2006

Fri	13	MANCHESTER Academy 3 14+	SOLD OUT	
Sat	14	EDINBURGH Venue 16+	0131 220 3234	
Sun	15	GLASGOW Barfly 14+	0870 907 0999	
Mon	16	NEWCASTLE The Cluny 16+	0191 230 4474	
Tue	17	LEEDS Faversham 14+	0870 0600 100	
Wed	25	BRIGHTON Ocean Rooms 18+	01273 395 440	
Thu	26	CARDIFF Barfly 14+	0870 907 0999	
Fri	27	BIRMINGHAM Barfly 14+	0870 907 0999	
Sat	28	NOTTINGHAM Rescue Rooms 18+	0115 958 8484	

(+ Matinee show. 14-18's only. Rock City - Basement - Doors 3.30pm)

Mon	30	SHEFFIELD Leadmill 14+	0870 010 4555
Tue	31	OXFORD Zodiac 14+	01865 420 042
February			
Wed	01	STOKE Sugarmill 14+	01782 206 000
Thu	02	LONDON ULU 14+	0870 0600 100

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: gigsandtours.com
New album For Screening Purposes Only out now on CD/LP.
www.testicicles.com

The Concretes

FEBRUARY
WED 15 BOURNEMOUTH, OLD FIRE STATION
Box office details: 0871-220-0260 www.seetickets.com
SAT 18 LIVERPOOL, ACADEMY 3
www.liverpoolacademy.co.uk Box office: 0870 4414 6377
WED 22 LONDON, SCALA
Scala: 020 7403 3331 / 020 7734 8932

www.theconcretes.com | tickets: 24 hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 / online: www.gigsandtours.com

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KERRANG! XXV

BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE
HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS
STILL REMAINS AIDEN

JANUARY 2006

SOLD OUT	CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
SOLD OUT	BRISTOL CARLING ACADEMY
TUE 17	NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
SOLD OUT	SOUTHAMPTON GUILDHALL
SOLD OUT	NORWICH UEA
SOLD OUT	MANCHESTER ACADEMY
MON 23	NEWCASTLE CARLING ACADEMY
TUE 24	GLASGOW CARLING ACADEMY
WED 25	LEEDS UNIVERSITY
SOLD OUT	BIRMINGHAM CARLING ACADEMY
SOLD OUT	LONDON BRIXTON CARLING ACADEMY

24HR TICKET HOTLINE: 0870 998 8888 OR BUY ONLINE: WWW.ALOUD.COM

ALOUD.COM | KERRANG!

WWW.BULLETFORMYVALENTINE1.COM
WWW.HAWTHORNEHEIGHTS.COM
WWW.AIDEN.ORG WWW.STILLREMAINS.COM
WWW.KERRANG.COM / WWW.MYSPACE.COM/TOURINGUK

A SJM Concerts presentation by arrangement with The Agency Group

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the open

FEBRUARY plus guests POLYTECHNIC

Wed	1	BRISTOL University	0117 929 9008	Mon	6	WOLVES Little Civic	01902 552 121
Thu	2	NOTTINGHAM Rescue Rooms	0115 958 8484	Tue	7	LONDON Kings College	020 7403 5531
Fri	3	MANCHESTER Academy 3	0161 832 1111	Wed	8	LIVERPOOL Academy 2	0151 256 5555
Sun	5	STOKE Sugarmill	01782 206 000				

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com
New album STATUES is out on Loog February 6th
www.theopenmusic.com www.loogrecords.co.uk

An SJM Concerts presentation by arrangement with The Agency Group

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SJM Concerts by arrangement with 13 Artists present

THE FALLOUT TRUST

January

26	Tunbridge Wells Forum	08712 777 181
27	Leicester Charlotte	0116 255 3956
28	Coventry Colosseum - club night	02476 554 473
29	Sheffield Leadmill	0870 010 4555
30	Stoke Sugarmill	01782 206 000
February		
1	Aberdeen The Tunnels	01224 642 662
2	Glasgow King Tuts	0870 169 0100
3	Edinburgh G.I.G - club night	0131 229 7620
4	Newcastle Cluny	0191 230 4474
5	Manchester Roadhouse	0161 832 1111
6	Birmingham Barfly	0870 907 0999
8	Nottingham Social	0115 958 8484
9	Liverpool Barfly	0151 708 5051
10	Bristol Louisiana	01179 299 000
11	Cardiff Barfly	0870 9070 999
13	London 93 Feet East	0870 8400 100

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com

www.thefalloutrust.com

SJM Concerts by arrangement with The Agency Present

BE YOUR OWN PET

PLUS Good Shoes (except 02.xxx)

JANUARY			
THURSDAY	26	MANCHESTER ROADHOUSE	0161 832 1111
FRIDAY	27	LEEDS COCKPIT	0113 245 5570
SATURDAY	28	NOTTINGHAM SOCIAL	0115 958 8484
SUNDAY	29	GLASGOW ABC 2	0870 0600 100
FEBRUARY			
WEDNESDAY	01	LONDON BUSH HALL (all ages)	020 8222 6933
THURSDAY	02	XFM X-POSURE AT LONDON BARFLY	0870 907 0999
SATURDAY	04	OXFORD ZODIAC	01865 420 042
SUNDAY	05	BRISTOL FLEECE	0117 929 9008

24HR CC HOTLINE: 0871 2200 260 OR BUY ONLINE: GIGSANDTOURS.COM
THE NEW SINGLE 'LET'S GET SANDY (BIG PROBLEMS)' RELEASED ON JANUARY 23

SJM Concerts by arrangement with 13 Artists present

Stephen Fretwell

Plus special guests Morning Runner

JANUARY 2006

11	GLASGOW GARAGE	0870 169 0100
12	MANCHESTER RITZ	0161 236 4355
13	LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE	0870 771 2000
14	BIRMINGHAM IRISH CLUB	0871 2200 260
15	LEEDS CITY VARIETIES	0113 243 0808

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: gigsandtours.com
The album 'MAGPIE' available on Fiction Records
www.fictionrecords.co.uk www.stephenfretwell.com

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY.COM Fiction

Goldfrapp

SUPERNATURE TOUR

plus guests **HOT CHIP**

February 2006

Wed 01	CARDIFF GREAT HALL		029 2078 1488
Thu 02	SOUTHAMPTON GUILDHALL		0870 401 6000
Sat 04	CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE		01223 357 851
Sun 05	READING HEXAGON		0118 960 6060
Thu 09	EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO PHENOMENAL PUBLIC DEMAND		
SOLD OUT	LONDON BRIXTON		0870 771 2000, 020 7287 0932
Sun 12	CARLING ACADEMY		020 7403 3331, 020 7734 8932
Thu 16	EDINBURGH USHER HALL		0870 169 0100
	EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO PHENOMENAL PUBLIC DEMAND		
SOLD OUT	MANCHESTER		
Sun 19	CARLING APOLLO		0870 401 8000, 0161 832 1111
Tue 21	LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY		0151 256 5555
Thu 23	SHEFFIELD OCTAGON		0114 222 9777
Fri 24	BIRMINGHAM CARLING ACADEMY		0870 771 2000
Sun 26	BELFAST ULSTER HALL		0870 243 445
Mon 27	DUBLIN OLYMPIA		0818 719 3300

All tickets available via: www.gigsandtours.com
except Belfast and Dublin: www.ticketmaster.ie
New album SUPERNATURE out now.
www.goldfrapp.co.uk

An SJM Concerts, Metropolis Music, MCD and DF Concerts presentation by arrangement with ITB

SJM Concerts present

MEW

PLUS GUESTS ENVY AND THE SONS (London only)

February 2006

04	CAMBRIDGE The Academy @ Anglia University	01223 511 511
05	COLCHESTER Arts Centre	01206 500 900
06	NORWICH Arts Centre	01603 660 352
08	BOURNEMOUTH OLD FIRE STATION	0871 220 0260
09	LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE	0870 771 2000, 020 7403 3331, 020 7734 8932
10	MANCHESTER Academy 2	0161 832 1111
12	READING Fez Club	0871 220 0260
14	NOTTINGHAM Rescue Rooms	0115 958 6464
15	STOKE Sugarmill	01782 206 000

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or
buy online: gigsandtours.com / seetickets.com
New Single *Why Are You Looking Grave?* out Feb 6th
The album *Mew and the Glass Handed Kites* out now
www.mewsite.com

SJM Concerts by arrangement with ITB present

BELL X1

plus guests

March 2006

23	Nottingham Rescue Rooms	0115 958 6484
24	Oxford Zodiac	01865 420 042
25	Birmingham Academy 2	0870 771 2000
27	Bristol Anson Rooms 2	0117 929 9008
28	Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms	023 9286 3911
29	London Scala	020 7403 3331
31	Manchester Academy 3	0161 832 1111

April 2006

01	Glasgow Garage	0870 169 0100
02	Newcastle Academy 2	0870 771 2000
03	Leeds Cockpit	0113 245 5570

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or online: gigsandtours.com
New single Frame out March 06 taken from
new album Flock out March 20 www.bellx1.com

SJM Concerts by arrangement with Elastic Artists present

COLDCUT LIVE

JANUARY

THU 19 LONDON SOLD OUT ARGO

FEBRUARY

FRI 17	OXFORD ZODIAC	01865 420 042
SAT 18	BEXHILL DE LA WARR PAVILION	01424 787 494
SUN 19	NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS	0115 958 6484
WED 22	MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2	0161 832 1111
THU 23	BIRMINGHAM CUSTARD FACTORY	0121 224 7502
SAT 25	LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE	020 7403 3331 / 020 7734 8932

APRIL

WED 19	BRIGHTON CORN EXCHANGE	01273 709 709
THU 20	BRISTOL CARLING ACADEMY	0870 771 2000
FRI 21	GATESHEAD THE SAGE	0191 443 4661
TUE 25	SHEFFIELD TUESDAY CLUB @ SHEFFIELD UNION	0114 222 8777

24hr cc hotline 0871 2200 260 or buy online: gigsandtours.com
New album Sound Mirrors out January 30th on Ninja Tune
www.coldcut.net

SJM Concerts by arrangement with The Agency Group present

THE CRIBS

PLUS GUESTS Giant Drag

February 2006

Mon 13	BIRMINGHAM IRISH CENTRE		0121 605 7000
Tue 14	GIG EDINBURGH		0870 169 0100
Wed 15	NEWCASTLE NORTHUMBRIA UNI		0191 233 0444
Fri 17	MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2		SOLD OUT
Sat 18	PORTSMOUTH WEDGEWOOD ROOMS		023 9286 3911
Sun 19	LONDON ASTORIA		0870 060 3777

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: gigsandtours.com
New single "You're Gonna Lose Us" / "The Wrong Way To Be" out now
The album "The New Fellas" out now (Wichita Recordings)

www.thecribs.com

SJM Concerts & academyevents present

The Wonder Stuff

+Special Guests

March 2006

Thu 2	Norwich Waterfront		01603 508 050
Fri 3	Dudley JB's		01384 253 597
Sat 4	Brighton Concorde 2		01273 673 311
Sun 5	Exeter Lemon Grove		01392 425 309
Tue 7	Nottingham Rescue Rooms		0115 958 6484
Wed 8	Manchester Academy 2		0161 832 1111
Thu 9	Glasgow ABC 2		0870 903 3444
Fri 10	Newcastle Academy 2		0870 771 2000
Sun 12	Leeds Cockpit		0113 245 5570
Mon 13	Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms		023 9286 3911
Tue 14	Bristol Bierkeller		0117 929 9008
Wed 15	London Islington Academy		0870 771 2000

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com
The new album 'Suspended By Stars' released on IRL 20th February
www.thewonderstuff.co.uk

SJM Concerts by arrangement with 13 Artists present

The Magic Numbers

plus special guests

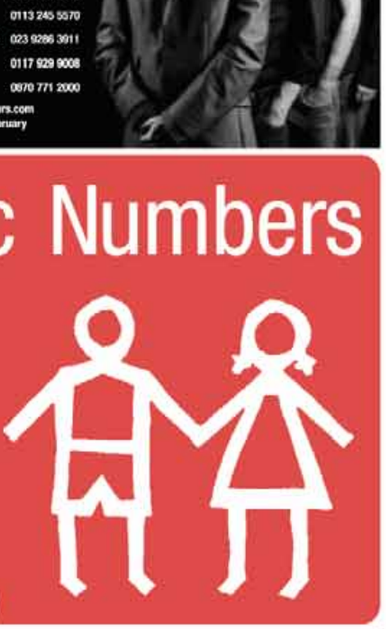
The Concretes & simon breed

(except London)

February 2006

Metropolis Music

Thu 16	London Brixton Academy		0870 771 2000
Sun 19	Wolverhampton Civic Hall	SOLD OUT	
Mon 20	Edinburgh Corn Exchange	SOLD OUT	
Tue 21	Blackpool Empress Ballroom		01253 292 029



24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260
or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com

The platinum selling debut album
'The Magic Numbers' out now
www.themagicnumbers.net

the spinto band

2006 UK tour

Plus Special Guests **fields**

JANUARY

Wed 18	Nottingham The Social	0115 958 8484
Thu 19	Bristol Louisiana	0117 929 9008
Fri 20	Liverpool Club EVOL	0870 060 0100
Sat 21	Manchester Blow Out@ The bierkeller	0161 832 1111
Mon 23	Glasgow King Tuts	0870 169 0100
Tue 24	Leeds The Cockpit	0113 244 3446
Wed 25	London Cargo	0870 060 0100
Thu 26	Brighton Ocean Rooms	01273 325 440

Credit Cards Tel: 0870 400 0688 (24hrs) Buy online at www.getLIVE.co.uk

A Clear Channel presentation

Blackbud

PLUS GUESTS

JANUARY 2006

16	SOUTHAMPTON JOINERS	023 8022 5612
17	LONDON BORDERLINE	0870 400 0688
18	SHREWSBURY BUTTERMARKET	01743 241455
19	WINCHESTER RAILWAY INN	01962 867 765
20	BEDFORD ANGEL	01234 266 626
21	EXETER CAVERN	01392 425 309
22	BRIGHTON OCEAN ROOMS	01273 325 440

CREDIT CARDS TEL: 0870 400 0688 (24HRS)
BUY ONLINE AT WWW.GETLIVE.CO.UK

WWW.BLACKBUD.CO.UK
A CLEAR CHANNEL ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTATION IN ASSOCIATION W TH ITB

José González

Plus Special Guests

London Shepherds Bush Empire
Wednesday 1st February 2006 0870 771 2000

Manchester Academy 3
Thursday 2nd February 2006 0161 832 1111

Credit Cards Tel: 0870 400 0688 (24hrs)
Buy online at www.getLIVE.co.uk and www.gigsandtours.com

Debut Album 'Veneer' out now

A Clear Channel and SJM presentation in association with The Agency Group

Henry ROLLINS

'25 YEARS OF BULL$#*T!' SPOKEN WORD TOUR

MARCH 2006

24	LONDON HAMMERSMITH APOLLO	0870 606 3400
26	NEWCASTLE ACADEMY	0870 771 2000
27	MANCHESTER ACADEMY	0161 832 1111

CREDIT CARDS TEL: 0870 400 0688 (24HRS)
BUY ONLINE AT WWW.GETLIVE.CO.UK
A CLEAR CHANNEL PRESENTATION

WWW.HENRYROLLINS.COM

VIOLENT FEMMES

Plus Guests

LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE

Sunday 26th February

0207 771 2000

Credit Cards Tel:0870 400 0688 (24hrs)

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A Clear Channel presentation

FOR TICKETS CALL: 0870 400 0688 OR BUY ONLINE AT CLEAR CHANNEL ENTERTAINMENT getLive.co.uk

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Sigur Rós

+ amina

London
Hammersmith Apollo
29.03.06

0870 606 3400, 0207 734 8932
Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com

A Metropolis Music presentation by arrangement with 13 Artists

New single Hoppipolla out now. Taken from the album Takk... www.sigur-ros.s

Metropolis Music, SJM Concerts, DF Concerts & CPL by arrangement with Helter Skelter present

goldie looking chain

plus guests

FEBRUARY 2006

Tuesday	14	LIVERPOOL ACADEMY FEEL THE LOVE	0151 256 5555
Wednesday	15	LONDON ASTORIA	0870 150 0044
Thursday	16	WOLVERHAMPTON WULFRUN HALL	01902 552 121
Friday	17	NORWICH UEA	01603 508 050
Saturday	18	SHEFFIELD THE PLUG	0114 276 2676
Monday	20	GLASGOW ACADEMY	0870 169 0100
Tuesday	21	NEWCASTLE ACADEMY	0870 169 0100
Wednesday	22	NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY	0115 941 2544
Thursday	23	MANCHESTER ACADEMY	0161 832 1111
Friday	24	PORTSMOUTH PYRAMID	023 9235 8608
Saturday	25	BRISTOL ACADEMY	0870 771 2000

MARCH 2006

Thursday	02	BOURNEMOUTH OPERA HOUSE	0870 830 1414
Friday	03	JERSEY FORT REGENT LEISURE PARK	01534 500 200

Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com

THE ALBUM 'SAFE AS FUCK' OUT NOW. ITS FOR CHRISTMAS AND FOR LIFE!
WWW.YOUKNOWSIT.CO.UK

death cab for cutie

plus guests

february 2006

28	LONDON ASTORIA	0870 150 0044

march 2006

02	NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY	0115 941 2544
03	MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2	0161 832 1111
04	GLASGOW GARAGE	0870 169 0100
05	NEWCASTLE NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY STAGE 2	0191 232 3791
06	PORTSMOUTH WEDGEWOOD ROOMS	023 9286 3911

Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com

new album PLANS out now
new single CROOKED TEETH out 27 february 2006
www.deathcabforcutie.com

a metropolis music, sjm concerts & df concerts presentation by arrangement with the agency group

For exclusive live announcements and priority booking go to: www.gigsandtours.com

HIM

PLUS GUESTS
ANATHEMA

JANUARY 2006
16 DUBLIN AMBASSADOR
17 DUBLIN AMBASSADOR
19 GLASGOW CARLING ACADEMY
20 NEWCASTLE ACADEMY
21 MANCHESTER CARLING APOLLO
22 MANCHESTER CARLING APOLLO
24 BIRMINGHAM CARLING ACADEMY
25 BIRMINGHAM CARLING ACADEMY
26 LONDON BRIXTON CARLING ACADEMY

SOLD OUT
SOLD OUT

NEW ALBUM 'DARK LIGHT' OUT NOW WWW.HEARTAGRAM.COM WWW.HIMONLINE.TV
'KILLING LONELINESS' OUT JANUARY 23RD ON CD / MAXI CD / 7" VINYL VIDEO ON KTV NOW. SELECTION NO. 127 (REQUEST LINE 09056 525 666)
A CLEAR CHANNEL PRESENTATION

Nizlopi

Plus Guests
(Borderline Only)
AMY SMITH
and Sandi Thom

December
Tue 20th LONDON BORDERLINE SOLD OUT
Wed 21st LONDON CARGO SOLD OUT
January
Tue 17th BIRMINGHAM GLEE CLUB 0870 241 5093
Wed 18th MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2 0161 832 1111
Thu 19th GLASGOW KING TUTS 0870 169 0100
CHANGE OF VENUE DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND
Sun 22nd LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE 0870 400 0688

Credit Cards Tel:0870 400 0688 (24hrs)
Buy online at www.getLIVE.co.uk
A Clear Channel presentation in association with Concorde International Artistes

go:audio

January 2006
9 London Islington Bar Academy 0870 771 2000
10 London Metro 0870 400 0688
11 London Brixton Windmill 0870 400 0688
13 Birmingham Academy II 0870 771 2000
14 Newcastle Academy II 0870 771 2000
15 Glasgow King Tuts 0870 169 0100
16 Manchester Night & Day 0161 832 1111
18 Leeds Josephs Well 0113 245 5570
19 Bristol Fleece & Firkin 0117 945 0996

Plus Special Guests
THE BRIGHT SPACE
ENVY OF OTHER SINS

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Buy online at www.getLIVE.co.uk
www.okgo.net www.envyofothersins.com
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Fri 24 DARLINGTON Arena* 01325 [illegible]
Sat 25 CORBY [illegible]* 01536 402 [illegible]
Sun 26 POOLE [illegible]* 0120[illegible]

MARCH
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Wed 22 GUILDFORD Boxhoxhoxx 01483 369 222
Thu 23 LEEDS The Met 0113 244 4000
Fri 24 WOLVERHAMPTON Wulfrun 01902 554 121
Sat 25 BRIGHTON Concorde 2 01273 [illegible]
Sun 26 CAMBRIDGE Junction 01223 511 511
Tue 28 IPSWICH Corn Exchange 01473 433 100

Wed 29 CARDIFF Coal Exchange 02920 230 130
Thu 30 LONDON Hall 01306 881 717
Fri 31 READING Hexagon 0118 960 6060
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FRIDAY 23RD JUNE
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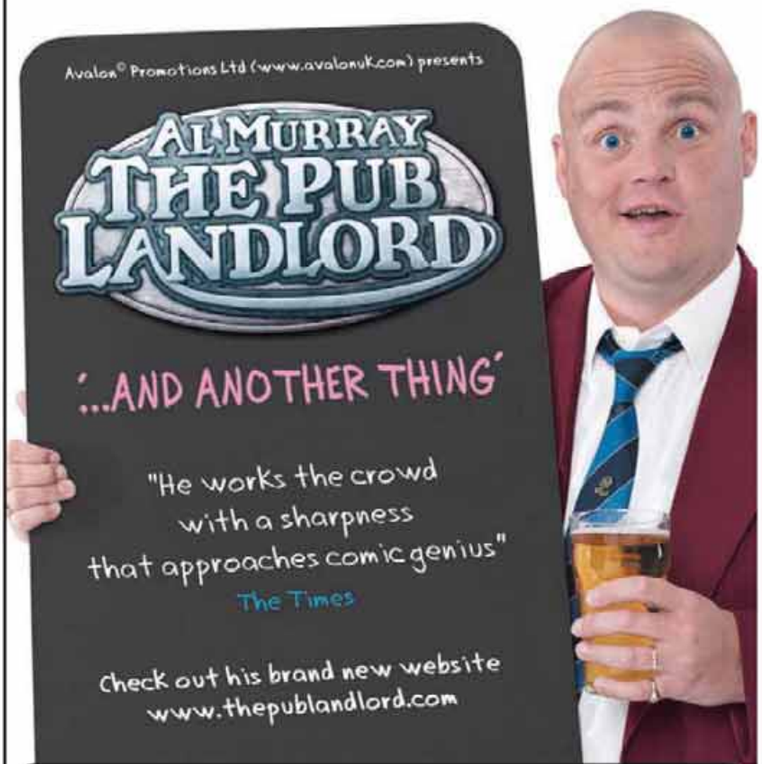

OCTOBER 2005				24	**KENDAL** Leisure Centre	SOLD OUT	01539 729 702
28	**WIMBORNE** Tivoli Theatre	SOLD OUT	01202 885 566	25	**BRADFORD** St George's H	SOLD OUT	01274 432 000
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30	**SALFORD QUAYS** The Lowry	SOLD OUT	08707 875 796	28	**ALDERSHOT** Princes Hall	SOLD OUT	01252 329 155
31	**BEDWORTH** Civic Hall	SOLD OUT	024 7637 6707	29	**SWINDON** Wyvern Theatre	SOLD OUT	01793 524 481
NOVEMBER 2005				30	**ST ALBANS** The Alban Ar	SOLD OUT	01727 844 488
01	**LEAMINGTON SPA** Royal Sp	SOLD OUT	01926 334 418	**DECEMBER 2005**			
02	**HIGH WYCOMBE** Swan Thea	SOLD OUT	01494 512 000	01	**HAYES** Beck Theatre	SOLD OUT	020 8561 8371
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04	**CAMBRIDGE** Corn Exchange	SOLD OUT	01223 357 851	03	**KINGS LYNN** Corn Exchan	SOLD OUT	01553 764 864
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08	**CROYDON** Fairfield Halls	SOLD OUT	020 8688 9291	06	**LEICESTER** De Montfort H	SOLD OUT	0116 233 3111
09	**READING** Hexagon Theatre	SOLD OUT	0118 960 6060	08	**WOLVERHAMPTON** Civic	SOLD OUT	01902 552 121
10	**ABERYSTWYTH** Arts Centre	SOLD OUT	01970 623 232	09	**SKEGNESS** Embassy The	SOLD OUT	01754 768 333
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17	**STOKE-ON-TRENT** Victoria H	SOLD OUT	0870 060 6649	14	**CHELTENHAM** Everyman	SOLD OUT	01242 572 573
18	**CROYDON** Fairfield Halls	SOLD OUT	020 8688 9291	15	**CHELTENHAM** Everyman	SOLD OUT	01242 572 573
19	**SOUTHAMPTON** Guildhall	SOLD OUT	023 8063 2601	16	**NEWTOWN** Theatr Hafren	SOLD OUT	01686 625 007
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EXTRA DATES

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15	**SOUTHEND** Cliffs Pavilion		01702 351 135
16	**BROMLEY** Churchill Theatre		0870 060 6620
19	**SOUTHAMPTON** Guildhall		023 8063 2601
21	**LONDON** Lyric Theatre		020 7494 5045
24	**HIGH WYCOMBE** Swan Theatre		01494 512 000
25	**CHELTENHAM** Town Hall		01242 227 979
JUNE 2006			
07	**READING** Hexagon Theatre		0118 960 6060
08	**GRIMSBY** Auditorium		0870 060 2331
10	**CARDIFF** Wales Millennium Centre		08700 40 2000
11	**WIMBLEDON** New Theatre		0870 060 6646
14	**CROYDON** Fairfield Halls		020 8688 9291
15	**CAMBRIDGE** Corn Exchange		01223 357 851
16	**PETERBOROUGH** Broadway Theatre		01733 316 100
17	**STOKE-ON-TRENT** Victoria Hall		0870 060 6649
19	**GLASGOW** The King's Theatre		0141 240 1111
21	**SALFORD QUAYS** The Lowry		08707 875 796
24	**BASINGSTOKE** The Anvil		01256 844 244
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412488	John Lennon	Happy Christmas
414125	Luther Vandross	Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
412109	Mariah Carey	All I Want For Christmas
412486	Mel Smith & Kim Wilde	Rocking Around The Christmas Tree
412119	Nat King Cole	The Christmas Song
412123	NSYNC	I Don't Wanna Spend One More Christmas
412487	Paul McCartney	Wonderful Christmas Time
412494	Shakin' Stevens	Merry Christmas Everyone
412484	Slade	Merry Christmas Everybody
412134	Stevie Wonder	What Christmas Means To Me
412135	SWV	This Christmas
411989	The Darkness	Christmas Time (Don't Let The Bells End)
414244	The Ramones	Merry Xmas
414123	The Waitresses	Christmas Wrapping
412493	Traditional	Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer
412492	Traditional	Wish You A Merry Xmas
412490	Traditional	Jingle Bells
411942	Traditional	Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
411936	Traditional	12 Days Of Christmas
414142	Traditional	Ding Dong Merrily On High
414141	Traditional	Good King Wenceslas
414140	Traditional	Hark The Herald Angels Sing
414139	Traditional	O Come All Ye Faithful
414169	Traditional	The Holly And The Ivy
414170	Traditional	We Three Kings
414171	Traditional	While Shepherds Watched
414172	Traditional	O Little Town Of Bethlehem
412497	Traditional	Frosty The Snowman
411509	Traditional	Greensleeves
412499	Traditional	Away In A Manger
412498	Traditional	Deck the Halls
412495	Wham!	Last Christmas
412496	Wizzard	I Wish It Could Be Christmas

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615216	Bobby Helms	Jingle Bell Rock
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610596	Cliff Richard	Mistletoe And Wine
610597	Cliff Richard	Saviour's Day
610622	Crystals	I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
610624	Crystals	Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
610623	Crystals	Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer
610632	Darlene Love	White Christmas
610633	Darlene Love	Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)
610672	Elton John	Step Into Christmas
610678	Elvis Presley	Blue Christmas
615227	Frank Sinatra	Let It Snow
610738	Gary Glitter	Another Roll n Roll Christmas
610765	Greg Lake	I Believe In Father Christmas
615166	John Lennon	Happy Christmas War Is Over
615168	Johnny Mathis	Have Yourself A Merry Christmas
610827	Johnny Mathis	When A Child Is Born
615040	Mariah Carey	All I Want For Christmas
610936	Nat King Cole	The Christmas Song
615359	Paul McCartney	Wonderful Christmas Time
610975	Queen	Thank God It's Christmas
610116	S Club 7	Perfect Christmas
611042	Shakin' Stevens	Merry Christmas Everyone
611057	Slade	Merry Christmas Everybody
611069	Spice Girls	Christmas Wrapping
615088	The Darkness	Christmas Time
615133	The Pogues	Fairytale Of New York
615295	The Ronettes	Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
615147	The Ronettes	Frosty The Snowman
611018	The Ronettes	Winter Wonderland
611017	The Ronettes	Sleigh Ride
615351	Traditional	We Wish You A Merry Christmas
615053	Traditional	Auld Langsyne
615226	Wham!	Last Christmas
611235	Wizzard	I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day

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NINE BLACK ALPS

It's a little known fact that Nine Black Alps is a kind of effects peddle. Its sound is described as "righteous"

IN THE STUDIO

The follow-up to 'Everything Is' will be recorded in the spring with producer Rob Schnapf again, chosen for his work with Beck and Elliott Smith. Schnapf introduced David to the delights of the Robert Keeley-modified Boss Super Overdrive. "They're great," he enthuses. "It keeps the bottom end, which most distortion pedals cut out."

ON THE STAGE

David is scarcely visible behind a two-tier, Rick Wakeman-style pedal board. At a recent show he overloaded his amp so much with distortions, power booster and a delay on full feedback doing the "stupid swoops" at the end of 'Unsatisfied', that it literally exploded.

THE SOUND

A million miles from the rest of the Manc scene, Nine Black Alps were reared on American grunge and hardcore... and singer/guitarist Sam Forrest will admit to a history of Aerosmith and Ugly Kid Joe covers.

THE KIT

"I like to physically tweak pedals as I'm playing – it's a lot more fun," says guitarist David Jones, explaining why an all-in-one multi-effects rack just won't do. He runs his Tele through a Crowther Hot Cake, EH Holy Grail, Roland Space Echo 201 and an artillery of other gear, then out to his Orange AD30. "If you've got a digital thing you have to go through menu/sub menu/menu, and then the moment's passed." By contrast, Sam plays his rickety Gretsch Duo Jet and Guild Polara (with built-in stand) through a Marshall Plexi Head and 2x12 cab, with just an Ibanez Tube Screamer for feedback.

THE TECHNIQUE

"I use the most pedals in 'Unsatisfied' – about six, I think," David ponders. "Delay, reverb, two overdrives, line selector and a MicroAmp to boost the signal, because when you use that many pedals the signal goes down. I use line selectors to break the signal path up a bit so that it's a purer signal and so that if something fucks up you can pretty much guess where it is."

BEST TRICK

"I use drumsticks to do Sonic Youth kind of things in weird tunings, just to keep our techs on their toes," says David... and you might want to grab a pen to figure this bit out. "Everything's tuned down two semi-tones and we'll drop the top and bottom C. The A goes back up to B and what is now the C goes back up to D to make a stupid barre chord. With the other fingers you can do little melody lines. It's just a Metallica trick, really."

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Words by Jenny Knight from...

Guitar

Winter Special out now

FORM A BAND

Join a gang or create your own

Drummers

DRUMMER REQUIRED FOR GUITAR BASED BAND writing original material, influences Libertines, Bowie, The Clash, London. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 592350**

DRUMMER WANTED BY NORTH LONDON INDIE BAND, TALENT AND COMMITMENT ESSENTIAL, Primal Scream, Led Zeppelin, Charlatans and Dance Groves, no Tommy Lees. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 292674**

DRUMMER AVAILABLE, FOR RECORDING SESSIONS, I've have vast recording experience in UK and Paris, can play various parts of music. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 352253**

DRUMMER WANTED, ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY to join signed band with outstanding material and financial backing, Radiohead, U2, Buckley. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 978051**

DRUMMER IN SOUTH WEST LONDON seeks original band with fresh ideas, into Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Pixies, Sonic Youth, Kings of Leon. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 870004**

EXPERIENCED ROCK DRUMMER REQUIRED FOR WEST LONDON pro band with press, management, agency and imminent showcases, contact Struan. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 734777**

DRUMMER 36 SEEKS MUSICIANS for jamming sessions in Leeds, York, Harrogate area, interests Steely Dan, Pretenders, Moloko, Specials. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 857722**

EXPERIENCED DRUMMER, LOOKING TO JOIN OR FORM A FUNKY ROCK BAND, retro style, influences Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple, Sex Pistols, The Jam, Stone Roses, Moby and Kaiser Chiefs. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 591611**

DRUMMER REQUIRED FOR HEAVY ROCK ABBA TRIBUTE BAND, double pedal essential as well as experience, influences Judas Priest, Zakk Wilde, Maiden, Sabbath etc. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 935208**

INVENTIVE, DYNAMIC DRUMMER WANTED BY LONDON BASED BAND, influences The Slips, Blondie, Modettes, The Duke Spirit. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 232173**

DRUMMER WANTED TO COMPLETE A FIVE-PIECE SOUTH LONDON BAND, WITH ORIGINAL MATERIAL, band being compared to Coldplay and Athletes, auditions taking place in November and December. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 999097**

DRUMMER WANTED FOR LONDON BASED INDIE BAND WITH FORTHCOMING GIGS, influences The Kills, Beatles, interpol, My Bloody Valentine. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 550325**

Guitarists

RHYTHMICAL LEAD GUITARIST AVAILABLE, Arcade Fire, Cocteau Twins, Doves, Elbow, interpol etc. South Yorkshire area. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 535051**

RHYTHM GUITAR/BASSIST DUO LOOKING FOR BAND, lead guitarist, singer, drummer, complete with songs, influences include Elbow, Radiohead, local to Kent. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 161492**

CHARISMATIC AND ENERGETIC FEMALE FRONTED BAND looking for cool guitarist and keys player, melodic, edgy, atmospheric etc. playing style required, songs ready, own studio. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 424415**

GUITARIST WITH ORIGINAL SONGS, seeks North West musicians to form indie rock band. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 922399**

24YR OLD GUITARIST AVAILABLE, NEW TO THE LIVERPOOL AREA, seeks rock band in style of Muse, Smashing Pumpkins or Iron Maiden. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 614523**

AWESOME FEMALE GUITARIST WANTED, FOR KICK ASS ROCK BAND, tour waiting, M25 area. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 315188**

GUITARIST NEEDED FOR MELODIC, LONDON BASED, INDIE, POP BAND, serious management, name producer on board, major label interest, influences Thrills, Flaming Lips, Supergrass, Elbow, U2, backing vocals and keyboard skills a plus. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 558371**

GUITARIST WANTED FOR NOTTINGHAM BASED ROCK BAND, influences include Placebo, Pixies, Mogwai, Deftones, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 173671**

LEAD GUITARIST WANTED FOR EAST LONDON MELODIC INDIE POP BAND, influences Libertines, Beatles, Motown, Beach Boys, 18-22yrs. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 211352**

GUITARIST WANTED FOR NEW BAND WITH MANAGEMENT AND MAJOR INTEREST, must be fully committed as touring and recording is involved, influences include The Clash, The Jam, The Cure and more, based in North East London. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 990650**

GUITARIST AND KEYS PLAYER NEEDED BY CHARISMATIC, energetic, female-fronted band, melodic, edgy, sparse, atmospheric with real feel, etc, playing style required, songs ready, own studio, London Brighton. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 689551**

Bassists

SHEFFIELD BASED BAND WANTS BASSIST, influences include Velvet Underground, The Cure, Pulp, UK tour and single planned for New Year, please contact if interested. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 433770**

BASSIST WANTED, FOR LONDON BASED BAND, WITH MANAGEMENT AND STRONG SONGS, influences Beatles, Kinks, Costello, Dexys, backing vocals and ability to harmonize a must. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 902751**

BASS PLAYER AVAILABLE, VERY EXPERIENCED IN MANY STYLES belfast based, but willing to travel. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 704381**

BASS PLAYER AVAILABLE, EX-PROFESSIONAL 28, seeks an open-minded, committed musician, to form/join band, influences Jane's Addiction, Mars Volta, Mr. Bungle. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 430376**

BASSIST WANTED FOR PRO-BAND, WITH DEALS, influences Colin Greenwood and Alex James. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 631850**

SLEAZY BASS PLAYER FOR BAND WITH MANAGEMENT, influences Prodigy, LCD Sound System, The Police, Pixies. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 344440**

BASSIST WANTED FOR LONDON BASED BAND, great name and tunes, gigging, think Razorlight, Roxy Music, Killers, Clash, Blondie, commitment essential, call James. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 656374**

UNIQUE BASS PLAYER, into Roses, Zeppelin, Who, Kinks, through to breakbeats, drum and bass, ska, seeks band in West London area. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 873710**

BASSIST WANTED FOR BRILLIANT GLASGOW ROCK AND ROLL BAND, must be committed, ambitious and look the part, influences Zeppelin, Kasablan, Cream, Kings of Leon, INXS, no time wasters. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 289165**

BASSIST WANTED FOR AN ALTERNATIVE ROCK BAND, based in Sheffield, 20-30yrs old, experience and commitment are essential. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 573972**

BASS PLAYER WANTED ASAP, influences U2, Oasis, Feeder, age; 19-27, based in London. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 749712**

BASS PLAYER WANTED FOR NEWLY FORMED LONDON BAND, influences The Jam, Razorlight, The Clash etc. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 496942**

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DRUMMER IN SOUTH WEST LONDON seeks original band with fresh ideas, into Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Pixies, Sonic Youth, Kings of Leon. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 632599**

NO ORDINARY DRUMMER WANTED, fresh type player needed for highly original 4 piece band, based in South West London, blues and soul based, with contemporary influences. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number 961336**

INDIE ROCK BAND, MANN FRIDAY, is looking for a drummer to join the bandwagon, we are actively looking for a record deal in London, drummer needs to have some recorded material, an affinity for powerful performance and be willing to go all the way. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 967706**

HARD-HITTING DRUMMER WANTED, TO JOIN LONDON BASED, established guitarist and bassist, influences The Melvins, Black Flag, Sonic Youth, must be committed. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 217540**

GUITARIST SEEKS SINGER/SONGWRITER OR BAND, LONDON AREA, have toured and recorded looking to start or join new band, must be passionate and serious, influences PJ Harvey, Verve, Interpol, Buckley, Elbow, Editors. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 905635**

LEAD-GUITARIST REQUIRED FOR AN ESTABLISHED SOUTH LONDON BAND, genuine label and sponsorship interest, must have similar influences, Libertines, Razorlight, Vines, Ian Brown, image very important. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 280801**

GUITARIST IN MANCHESTER LOOKING TO FORM A BAND that plays music such as Joy Division, Bright Eyes, The Cure and The Smiths. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 638217**

GUITARIST SEEKS BAND INTO RADIOHEAD, Stone Roses, Led Zeppelin, Stones, White Stripes, Drake, Nirvana, Clash, Smiths, The Who, London based. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 199696**

GUITARIST URGENTLY WANTED TO JOIN FABULOUS BAND WITH MANAGEMENT, London based, gigs lined up, influences Bowie, Led Zeppelin, serious only please. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 883627**

SECOND GUITARIST WANTED TO JOIN 3-PIECE ROCK BAND WITH INTEREST, influences Buzzcocks, Jam, Supergrass, Cure, Reading area. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 581520**

GUITARIST, SEEKS BAND OR SINGER, into Radiohead, Zeppelin, Stone, Roses, White Stripes, Nick Drake, Nirvana, Smith, London based. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 478775**

GUITARIST WANTED BY BAND, WITH MANAGEMENT AND SINGLE RELEASE, influences Interpol, The Rapture, Sonic Youth, Bloc Party. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 435334**

GUITARIST SEEKS BAND MEMBERS FOR A NEW BAND, interested in regular gigging and management, rock, funk, indie, whatever - bring it all to the band and we will make our own sound. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 748470**

Turn the page for more adverts and instructions

NME FREE ADS

FORM A BAND

ROCK AND ROLL FREAK BASSIST WITH BVS, to complete creative and committed female trio, with forthcoming single release, album recording, tour and TV, influences, PJ Harvey, White Stripes, Queens of the Stone Age. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 328917**

WHERE ARE YOU, bassist, Joe Burt, ex Dragons, Daphne and the Tender Spots, Black Sabbath, Sector 27, from Ree and Wendy. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 754138**

BASSIST WITH SONGS, SEEKS VOCALIST, BAND, MUSICIANS ETC, for commercial punk, drum and bass type project, recording in January, Top of the Pops waits. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 309627**

BASS PLAYER AND BRASS SECTION WANTED, Essex/London based, Tricky, Mercury Rev, Prodigy, Bowery Electric. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 981654**

Singers

FRONTMAN REQUIRED FOR WEST LONDON BAND, attitude and commitment essential, influences Roses, Kasabian, Verve, Doves, Arctic Monkey, Hard Fi. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 592529**

FEMALE SINGER WITH UNIQUE VOICE AND LOOK WANTED, by London based, cutting edge, songwriter, producer, highly connected in the film and music industry. Influences Depeche Mode, Bowie, Evanescence, Cure, Cardigans, Nine Inch Nails, Garbage. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 725226**

FRONT MAN AVAILABLE, influences Queens of the Stoneage, Bowie, Doors, Reed, Stooges, Pistols, Young etc etc, 21-28, must be reliable, gig now. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 871673**

SONGWRITER WITH A GREAT SONG AND TUNE READY, seeking a DJ and singer, to make a hit with this song. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 263417**

LONDON BASED PRODUCTION TEAM is looking for 3 young female singers with attitude for girl rock band, cross between Avril Lavigne and Prince. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 498654**

PASSIONATE CHARISMATIC FRONTMAN with great voice wanted for new London band with huge potential, influences include Jeff Buckley, The Strokes, Radiohead, Killers, ideal age 18-27. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 751481**

MALE SINGER/SONGWRITER, North London, looking to join or form a band, influences Cooper Temple Clause, Kasabian, early Verve. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 172378**

SINGER WANTED FOR BAND WITH INDEPENDENT DEAL and management, South Yorkshire based, Doves, Primal Scream, Buckley, Verve, Slowdive. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 237004**

SINGER WANTED FOR NOTTINGHAM BASED ROCK BAND, influences include Placebo, Pixies, Mogwai, Deftones. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 328567**

FEMALE SINGER looking for electro pop rock band. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 805549**

VOCALIST REQUIRED BY GUITARIST/TUNESMITH to co-write contemporary guitar based classic hits and form a group whose influences include The Smiths, T-Rex, Arcade Fire. South West Yorkshire area, preferable male 20-30. **Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 334602**

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Bands

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Looking for someone right now? Call Speed Match on....
09052 300 308

SOUTH Coast male, looking for new friends to attend gigs with, Brighton, Portsmouth, Southampton, likes indie, dance, rock, pop. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 567264

INDIE chick, looking to meet males/females, to go to gigs and clubs with, in London, Manchester, Birmingham or Liverpool areas. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 267678

ROCK chick, 5ft 5ins, with long dark hair, dark eyes, olive skin, likes the outdoors, gigs, pubs, sports, WLTM males or females 19-25. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 102027

SPANISH/SWEDISH female, dark eyes, curvy, outgoing personality, adventurous, into extreme sports, pubs, gigs, not clubs. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 596885

Friendship

BROWN-EYED female, with longish hair, quite tall, funny personality, sometimes shy, likes rock and gothic music. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 177300

EASYGOING female, 21yrs, student, WLTM males and females, for socialising, shopping, cinema etc. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 737368

GOOD looking female, long hair, slightly shy, with SOH, likes going to gigs, reading magazines and art. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 341184

24hr Helpline
08710 433104
Calls cost 10p/min

LOOKING for new friends, to go to concerts, enjoys shopping going to cinema, pubs and clubs. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 404391

SHY, blonde female, 5ft 6ins tall, with a medium build, likes cleaning. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 719667

TALL, dark and handsome male, very serious personality, likes writing, drawing, films, music and reading. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 562034

GOOD-LOOKING indie dude, wishing to meet lots of cool people, males and females welcome, to hang out and have good times. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 781600

Girls seeking boys

FOR FUN ON THE PHONE, call the instant message exchange, where you can talk and date up to 60 girls and guys who are on the phone at the same time as you. TEL: 09052 300 309.

PREFER TO TXT? Always on the move? No problem. Text potential dates in your area by sending GIG to 69919 now.

PHILOSOPHICAL, creative, shy, funny, average-medium build blonde, enjoys pubs, yoga, reading, gigs and drawing. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 488512

SEXY, 18yr old blonde, from Scotland, into Sonic Youth, looking for a guy, for friendship or more, looking like Billy Corgan would help. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 121206

CUDDLY, larger female, looking for friendship/romance with music lovers and lovers of the paranormal. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 224252

JILL, likes walking in the park, along the beach, meals in and watching DVDs with somebody to cuddle up to. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 786652

25YRS, single, white female, seeking my own Robbie Williams, Christian Slater, Luke Skywalker, for nights in listening to The Smiths. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 654090

JEN, bubbly girl, from Falkirk, easygoing, bubbly, great SOH, with a big heart, likes most things in life, hoping to meet someone special. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 656035

ENTHUSIASTIC, bubbly and full of energy female, slim build, 5ft 8ins, with blondish hair and greeny eyes, likes theatre, going to cinema and reflexology. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 392751

OUTGOING, blue-eyed blonde, into music, wine, gigs, fun and more wine, WLTM similar, own corkscrew a bonus! Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 441524

SARAH, 4ft 7ins, size 12, medium build, large bust, dark hair, N/S, fun, outgoing, great SOH, WLTM a tall black male, over 36. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 337992

NICE and young-looking lady, wants a similar bloke, for gigs, pubs, festivals, London/Brighton. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 524430

HELLO. I'm a female, I enjoy different types of music and I am looking to meet someone. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 594781

LAIDBACK, attractive, petite, black rock chick 22, recently joys of indie lifestyle, seeking cool, fun guys, to initiate me, Surrey. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 756145

EVE, with long brown hair and brown eyes, overweight, hoping to meet someone, nationality, size and looks are unimportant. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 965016

QUITE tall, 5ft 6ins, with long dark hair and green eyes, palish skin, quite outgoing and intelligent, GSOH, likes dancing, outdoor sports. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 452320

WITTY, fuller-sized girl, looking for a funny, probably lanky guy 19-29, they have to love The Libertines and Babyshambles. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 618576

MICHAELA, from Leeds, 5ft tall, with shoulder length brown hair and blue eyes, size 16. Call if your interested. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 663947

FRIENDLY female, 25yrs, slim, blue eyes, looking for a great guy, for lasting friendship, outer London area, get in touch! Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 218777

FUN-LOVING indie girl, wants to find someone to go out to gigs with, for good laughs, East London area. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 914032

BLONDE, bubbly, 18yrs girl, GSOH, loves music and gigs, WLTM a male, 18-23yrs, to go to gigs with, possibly more, Bristol area. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 473387

BLUE eyed blonde, GSOH and bubbly, likes to go out on the town and listen to live music, Jack Johnson and Peter Murray. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 400749

25YRS female, likes pubs, clubs and going to gigs, WLTM a male, with similar interests. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 206219

CUDDLY, tattooed, girl DJ, seeks an unpretentious, laidback indie boy 21-35, for gigs, giggles and maybe more, Leeds. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 798677

BRUNETTE, brown eyes, medium build, 5ft 4ins, likes going out drinking, having a laugh, if you fancy coming with me, let me know. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 384208

MICHELLE, mixed race female, brown hair/eyes, medium build, single mum of 3, West Yorkshire area, if you fancy a chat, get back. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 139629

22YRS female student, loves partying and going out, seeks a guy with GSOH, to have fun in London. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 424630

SINGLE mum, really into music, WLTM somebody similar, please call. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 372591

MANCHESTER female, 5ft 4ins, with long blonde, highlighted hair and blue eyes, size 14-16. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 239058

HAZEL-EYED, single female, slim build, looking for a nice, kind, honest, sincere gentleman. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 914017

WEIRD, wonderful, 18yr old, dancer, with a GSOH, likes almond coffee, dislikes buttons, seeks the beautiful boy. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 933120

HELLO. I'm calling to all the cool, sound dudes out there, I'm a genuine, attractive, slim blonde. Would love to meet you. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 720467

NOT so gorgeous, but cool as fuck, wants to meet a bloke, with no hang ups, just to have fun, Kent. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 955651

GOTHIC, 24yr old single mum, with black hair and green eyes, slim, looking for love and friendship. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 142571

Girls seeking girls

BEAUTIFUL, sensual, bisexual babe, into house music, seeks a gorgeous female, for fun times. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 854529

JANE, 5ft 8ins, medium build, blue eyes, brown hair, bubbly personality. Get back to me! London. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 331164

FEMALE 18, enjoys cinema, music, going out for drinks and laughs, WLTM a similar female, 18-25, Birmingham. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 763000

BUBBLY, outgoing 25yr old female, likes going out, clubbing, music, looking for a similar female who is honest and caring, Essex area. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 969754

CUTE 18yr old bi-female, 5ft tall. WLTM a very good looking bi-female, similar age, for friendship and possibly more, Sussex area. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 872331

YOUNG slim attractive blonde, 25, fun loving, enjoys shopping, going out, cinema, eating out, WLTM someone with similar interests, Surrey area. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 145792

24YRS female, 5ft 10ins, long brown hair, very sensual, WLTM a bi female, for some fun, laughter and friendship, Liverpool. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 191494

CUTE, bi-sexual, blue-eyed, blonde, 19yrs old, WLTM a similar female, for socialising and fun times together, Birmingham. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 174123

Boys seeking girls

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REASONABLY attractive indie/electro guy 26, WLTM an indie/electro girl, for indie/electro gigs and kissing, Cambridge/London. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 864752

FUNNY, smart, medium-stocky build male, with dark red hair, happy-go-lucky personality, enjoys going out having a laugh and gigs. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 366316

WE met after Ian Brown gig and I just can't stop thinking about you. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 697709

MUSIC loving male, shy, average looking, 5ft 11ins, into gigs, seeks someone similar for friendship or more, South East. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 338130

INDIE kid 22, 5ft 7ins, loves films, music, favourite band are The Strokes, looking for someone to have a super time with. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 341691

PROFESSIONAL man, from Hampshire, seeks fun ladies, for gigs, pubs, clubbing and general mucking about. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 536718

24YR old Morrissey fan, seeking a similar aged female, to share interests with, north Manchester area. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 972515

CURLY-HAIRED indie kid, 19, green eyes, tall, looking for a rock and roll queen, to share good times with, Scotland. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 882310

24YR old male, seeks a similar aged female, to share interests, including indie music, wrestling, film and comedy, North Manchester area. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 653042

SHY, average-looking male, 5ft 9ins, into music, gigs, cinema, art, looking for someone similar, for friendship or more, South East. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 431146

GLASGOW musician 19, into music, playing guitar and gigs, loves posh rock, metal and electronica, looking for a similar beautiful girl. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 392490

FUN, good-looking lad 22, likes pubs and gigs, looking for a female 18-25, with similar interests, from the Oxford area. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 819840

EASYGOING male, into all kinds of rock music, looking for a female, for gigs and maybe more, Bristol. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 322430

IAN, white, attractive male, ex-singer, seeks an attractive, chatty female singer, to share good times, South East London. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 612314

TALL, old bass player, seeks indie girl, for gigs, fun, nights out and in, West Yorkshire area. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 956185

HELLO. I'm a male and I'm looking for a nice, pretty girl, to have fun with. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 331709

BLOND-HAIRED, blue eyes, active male, WLTM a fun female, to enjoy life and good times, South Coast. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 597129

MIKE, 18yrs, honest, catholic troll, seeks a female who enjoys praying and Saturday evening Mass, will you be my Eve? Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 726591

STILL cool, indie kid, ex goth and grebo, seeks a groovy girl, for gigs, friendship and maybe more, Yorkshire. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 861967

25YR old male, single dad, likes decent music and books, looking to meet somebody nice, Staffordshire area. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 925762

Boys seeking boys

ACTOR, fun-loving, tall, dark, handsome, looking for friendship, possibly more for gigging and going out. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 520703

INDIE boy Gaz, good looking, bi, enjoys good nights out, crazy dancing, contact me if you love to party. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 995038

DRUMMER in a band,19yrs male, long dark hair, specialist sense of dress, enjoys nights out, WLTM a male, Scotland. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 538599

MALE, looking for a guy, who likes music, going to pubs, going to gigs and festivals. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 698848

GOOD looking guy, from Cardiff, masculine, seeks a stocky, masculine guy, into music, for gigs and more. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 869654

STRAIGHT-ACTING bloke, slim, 6ft 1ins, in Hull, York area, loves Glastonbury gigs, theatre, films, squash and swimming. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 780189

SINGLE, chain-smoking man, seeks a hot male, for fun and gigs. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 482178

MANCHESTER guy, easygoing, looking to meet a slim, attractive, blond-haired guy 18-24, for a possible relationship, ACA. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 605124

HANDSOME lad, 25yrs, heavily into film, music and literature, WLTM straight acting, similar lads, for possible relationship, Newcastle area. Tel No: 09052 300 306 Box Number: 320333

How to use the service

To place a FREE advert

Simply call the 08000 630 006 and leave your 20 word message to appear in print followed by a longer message for people to listen on-line. If you want to receive FREE text alerts every time you receive a reply remember to leave your mobile number.

To reply to an advert

Call 09052 300 306 and enter the 6 digit number of the advertiser you are interested in, then leave them a message! You can also hear other members or swap instant messages online!

To retrieve messages

To pick up messages callers have left for you call 09052 300 305 now! You'll need your membership number and PIN handy.

Think safe!

- When seeing someone for the first time take along a friend of yours or make sure a friend knows where you're going.
- Meet in a public place like a gig venue or pub. Never meet at your house.
- On your first meeting, make your own way there and back. It's risky to accept a lift from a total stranger.
- Don't invite people back home or give them your address until you're sure about them.
- Trust your instincts. If something feels a bit wrong or weird, end things and don't see them again.

Calls to 09052 cost £1/min at all times, Dating Text alerts are FREE. SMS to 69119 cost 75P/per MSG. Calls may cost more if you are not calling from a BT landline. You must be over 18 to use this service. Service provided by Eckoh, HP3 9HN. To unsubscribe from a text messaging service, send the word "stop" to the relevant short code e.g. 69119. w/c 121205

GUIDELINES and DISCLAIMER: We reserve the right to refuse or edit any personal advert for any reason. We assume no liability for the content of, or any replies to, any personal advert. You must not leave any messages or recordings of an offensive, obscene, defamatory, misleading or threatening nature. You agree to indemnify and hold us harmless from all costs, expenses (including reasonable legal fees), liabilities and damages you may incur as a result of the content of any personal advert you place or any reply you make to any personal advert. Adverts are updated on a regular basis and may be used in other IPC titles. Please ensure you have the latest copy of the Newspaper. This service only works with a tone phone.

NME GIG GUIDE

PICK OF THE WEEK

Coldplay

They've got a back catalogue bigger and better than Argos', they've sold a billion records, and now they're back with old friend and accomplice Richard Ashcroft in support for some soon-to-be-legendary shows.
Where: London Earls Court Exhibition Hall (Wed 14, Thur 15, Fri 16), **Newcastle** Metro Arena (Sun 18), **Manchester** Evening News Arena (Mon 19), **Belfast** Odyssey (Wed 21)

SMALL QUIRKY GIG

Kid Carpet

This man plays with Fisher Price toys, has a song called 'Carrier Bag', and sounds like your brother's Lego men going berserk in the night and having a disco-punk rave under the bed. Need we say more?
Where: Bristol Louisiana (Thursday 15)

RADAR BAND

O Fracas

Leeds' newest threat to the mainstream O Fracas have a perfect formula of frenetic, intelligent and downright mental art-hardcore that has to be seen live to be believed. It is big and it is clever.
Where: Manchester Music Box (Thursday 15), **Leeds** Faversham (Saturday 17)

DON'T MISS

Vincent Vincent And The Villains

Expect outbreaks of finger-clicking and spasmodic jiving as The Villains continue their mission to revive rockabilly and inject a bit of '50s style into their ever-increasing army.
Where: London Kingston Peel (Saturday 17), **London** Brixton Windmill (Friday 23)

INDIE LEGENDS

Duran Duran

The original metrosexuals matched jeans with jackets and synths with guitars, spawning all the Bravery-Killer bands of today, and they're back to show them how it's done.
Where: Glasgow SECC (Friday 16), **Birmingham** NEC (Saturday 17), **Manchester** Evening News Arena (Sunday 18), **London** Earls Court Exhibition Hall (Wednesday 21, Thursday 22)

WEDNESDAY

December 14

BATH
Misterlee Porter Cellar Bar 01225 404445

BELFAST
Hard-Fi/Humanzi Spring & Airbrake 028 9032 5968

BIRMINGHAM
Bell X1 Carling Bar Academy 0121 262 3000
DJ Format Barfly 0870 907 0999

BRIGHTON
¡Forward, Russia! Ocean Rooms 01273 699069

BRISTOL
Delirious?/Kendall Payne Carling Academy 0870 771 2000
Schmuck/The Lobotomies/Wind Up Bird Louisiana 0117 926 5978

CAMBRIDGE
Equinox/The Cohort Effect/The Red Room Portland Arms 01223 357268
Martyn Joseph Junction 01223 511511

CARDIFF
The Strand/The Jan Watkins Band/Ashes Of Everything Barfly 029 2066 7658

CARLISLE
Pure Reason Revolution Richmond Hall, Brickyard 01228 512220

CHELTENHAM
Transit Cop/Red Top Matches/The Labels Hub 01242 238001

DERBY
Catharsis/Vermiscious Knids/Evil Alive Victoria Inn 01332 740091

DUBLIN
Merz Crawdaddy 00 3531 478 0225

EXETER
Skindred/Devil Sold His Soul Cavern Club 01392 495370
Stereophonics/The Subways Westpoint Arena 01392 446000

GLASGOW
Arch Enemy QMU 0141 339 9784
Biffy Clyro King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
Oasis/Shack SECC 0141 248 3000
The Pogues Carling Academy 0870 771 2000
Seven Stone Lighter Barfly 0870 907 0999

HARROGATE
Uniting The Elements Blues Bar 01423 566881

HASTINGS
Freefaller/Hairy Balls Crypt 01424 444675

HERTFORD
Dead Kid Songs/Thoughts Collide/Fistfights & Breaklights Marquee Club 01992 414242

LANCASTER
The Coral Sugarhouse 01524 63508

LEEDS
4 Letter Holiday Mixing Tin 0113 246 8899
Club NME Presents... Littl'ans Warehouse 0113 246 8287

¡Forward, Russia!, Ocean Rooms, Brighton

Electric Mud Generator/Seven Story Mourning/Theft Of A Doll Fenton 0113 245 3908
The Lodger Cockpit 0113 244 3446
Quintron & Miss Pussycat/Monster Killed By Lazer Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866

LEICESTER
AK Logic/Tokyo/3 Gun Pete Charlotte 0116 255 3956
The Strollers/Action Force Attik 0116 222 3800

LIVERPOOL
Misty's Big Adventure Barfly Loft @ Masque 0151 707 6171
Nigel Clark/The Void Carling Academy 2 0870 771 2000

LONDON
Basically The Same/The Klouds/Robot Blues/The Bad Robots Angel Lark In The Park N1 020 7278 5781
Ben Christophers Chalk Farm Enterprise NW3 020 7485 2659
The Black Water Jacks/The Betty Ford All Stars/Black Fiction Brixton Telegraph SW2 020 8678 0777
Bodyrockers Carling Academy Islington N1 0870 771 2000
Ceiling/The Dega Breaks/The Cartwheel Club Shoreditch On The Rocks E2 020 7278 1074
Coldplay/Richard Ashcroft Earls Court Exhibition Hall SW5 0870 903 9033
David Gray/Rodrigo Y Gabriela Brixton Carling Academy Brixton SW9 020 7771 3000
The Delaners/The Machine/The Cadets Leicester Square Marquee W1 020 7336 7326
Dresden/Dead Famous Notting Hill Arts Club W11 020 7460 4459
Electric Assembly/Empty/Silver Springs Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358
Fleeing New York/Waylaid/The Invention Buffalo Bar N1 020 7359 6191
Floetry Camden Jazz Café NW1 020 7916 6060
Freedom High/Philanthropy/Traffic To Nowhere Highbury Corner Upstairs At The Garage N5 020 7607 1818
The Hope Conspiracy/Rainy Day Fuck Parade/November Coming Fire Camden Underworld NW1 020 7482 1932
Howling Bells Tottenham Court Road Metro Club W1 020 7437 0964
Hundred Reasons/Brigade Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Jon B Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000
Kyshera/Via Negativa/Spektrum 7 Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516
Life Of Agony/Get Amped Camden KOKO NW1 020 7388 3222
Los Skeletos/Kapowski/One Toy Soldier King's Cross Water Rats WC1 020 7336 7326
Motormark Aldgate East Vibe Bar E1 020 7377 9880
Nine Black Alps Charing Cross Road Astoria WC2 020 7434 0403
Pleasure Seekers/Hijera/The Sandcreek Massacre/Ox Old Street 333 EC1 020 7739 5949
Sergeant Buzfuz 12 Bar Club WC2 020 7916 6989
Slowline/Fiona Renshaw/The Amateurs/King Of Spain Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
Towers Of London/The Rifles/The Needs/The Holloways/Trap 2 King's Cross Scala N1 020 7833 2022

MANCHESTER
Foo Fighters/The Futureheads Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000
The Sensational Alex Harvey Band Academy 0161 275 2930

NEWCASTLE
The Human League Carling Academy 0870 771 2000

NORWICH
Levellers/Seth Lakeman UEA 01603 505401

NOTTINGHAM
Envy & Other Stories The Social 0115 950 5078
New Model Army/Cord Rock City 0115 941 2544
The Woggles/Chip Johnson & The Unforgiven/Gods Chosen Dealers Junktion 7 0115 911 6959

PRESTON
Doves Guildhall 01772 58858

SHEFFIELD
Trailer Park Trash/The Way Of The World Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

SOUTHAMPTON
The Hights/The Tulips Rhino Club 023 8063 0171
Moral Low Ground/Starscream/Oskal/Waiting For Superman Joiners 023 8022 5612

STOCKPORT
Outsider/Katie Ware Blue Cat Café 0161 432 2117

YORK
Mark Owen/Marc Atkinson/Thom Mills Fibbers 01904 651 250

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO A GIG...

Fur coats and cravates. Partridge really has gone up in the world!

RADIO Zane Lowe
7pm Radio 1
Jack and **Meg White** sing their own brand of Coke-sucker blues.

RADIO The Class Of 2005
10pm Radio 2
One year since their breakthrough, the **Chiefs** are older but are they Kaiser?

TV 24 Hour Party People
11.05pm Channel 4
The best film about a Factory since *Willy Wonka*. Steve Coogan does an ace job of being Tony Wilson.

TV It's Good to Be...
11pm ITV2
P Diddy. Find out how he earns his bling.

695 GIGS ACROSS THE UK AND IRELAND THIS XMAS

THURSDAY

December 15

BATH
¡Forward, Russia!/Venue Bogardus Moles 01225 404445

BIRMINGHAM
Blondie NIA 0121 780 4133
Delirious?/Kendall Payne Carling Academy 0121 262 3000
Reedstone Overboard/Urge/Strange Time Flapper & Firkin 0121 236 2421
Starfromivy/The Twang/Dog Tired/The Arrival Carling Bar Academy 0121 262 3000

BRIDGWATER
Adequate 7/Nine DB Down/Red Smed/Andy Fiction Palace 01778 434507

BRIGHTON
Snow White/Blood Red Shoes/Comanechi Freebutt 01273 603974

BRISTOL
The Albion Band Folk House 0117 926 2987
Kid Carpet/Treehouse Burning/Santa Dog Louisiana 0117 926 5978
Underdown/Stone From Delphi/Angry Panda Fleece 0117 945 0996

BURY
Deadeye Hark To Towler 01204 883856

CAMBRIDGE
Midnight Crazies/Boom In The Diamond Industry Portland Arms 01223 357268

CARDIFF
No Comply/Failsafe/Jaded Barfly 029 2066 7658
Ummh/Mwsog/David Mysterious Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199

DERBY
Blyth Power/Chris Butler Victoria Inn 01332 740091
Minnesota Fats Ryan's Bar 01332 345577

EXETER
Jacob's Stories/Metronomes/An Emergency Cavern Club 01392 495370

GLASGOW
Biffy Clyro King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
Doves Barrowlands 0141 552 4601
Motormark/Invisibles/In Absentia Barfly 0870 907 0999
Oasis/Shack SECC 0141 248 3000
Orenda Fink Nice'n'Sleazy 0141 333 9637
The Tall Boy Mono 0141 553 2400

HARROGATE
Paul Middleton Blues Bar 01423 566881

HERTFORD
The Bridge/Hanzo/After Dark Marquee Club 01992 414242

LEEDS
Tramp Attack/The Playmates/Piskie Sits Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866

LEICESTER
Adam Bomb Attik 0116 222 3800
Platinum Jar/Minus Sam/Vexation Charlotte 0116 255 3956

LIVERPOOL
The Authentics/The Red Box Conspiracy/The Neon Trees/Carousel Circus Cavern Club 0151 236 1964
Hundred Reasons/Brigade Barfly @ Masque 0151 707 6171
InMe/Fighting With Wire/Brent May Die Carling Academy 2 0870 771 2000

LONDON
Alias/Christ Islington Carling Bar Academy N1 0870 166 3663
Amsterdam/Motel Hero/Hydras Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2 020 7734 5547
Annie/Datarock Aldgate East 93 Feet East E1 020 7247 6095
Arch Enemy Charing Cross Road Astoria WC2 020 7434 0403
Archie Bronson Outfit/Vincent Vincent And The Villains Swiss Cottage Elbow Room NW3 020 7586 9888
Broken Family Band/Phonofiction/The New Shapes Oxford Street 100 Club W1 020 7636 0933
The Chalets/Misty's Big Adventure Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999

Comanechi, Freebutt, Brighton

Chet/Airhammer/Kvetch Brixton Windmill SW2 020 8671 0700
Coldplay/Richard Ashcroft Earls Court Exhibition Hall SW5 0870 903 9033
DBSP/The MBs/Deco Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358
DJ Format King's Cross Scala N1 020 7833 2022
Dead Spies/Thomas Bromley/Autozero Bethnal Green Pleasure Unit E2 020 7729 0167
Dogs Malet Street ULU WC1 020 7664 2000
East Of Ealing/Flynt/Fancy That My Friends 12 Bar Club WC2 020 7916 6989
Electra-Kill/Vitrol Id Highbury Corner Upstairs At The Garage N5 020 7607 1818
Embrace/The Bees/The Frames Wood Green Alexandra Palace N22 020 8365 2121
Fields/Alfa 9/Roland Shanks/Keith Tottenham Court Road Metro Club W1 020 7437 0964
Mad Dogs & Glory/Rev Counter/Vision/Nineteenth Century Islington Hope'n'Anchor N1 020 7354 1312
Malcolm Middleton Shepherds Bush Bush Hall W12 020 8222 6955
The Playing Fields/Murder In Monochrome Highbury Corner Garage N5 020 7607 1818
Semaphore/Karuso/Argonaut/Kai Motto Angel Lark In The Park N1 020 7278 5781
Shuffle Notting Hill Arts Club W11 020 7460 4459
Sidi Bou Said/The Fortingtons/Spy 51 King's Cross Water Rats WC1 020 7336 7326
Three Movements/Waveform/Fromthesky/Great Eskimo Hoax Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516
The Underground Velvets/Pearly/Brinkman Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773

MANCHESTER
Behind Green Lights Jabez Clegg 0161 272 8612
Ben Folds Carling Apollo 0870 401 8000
Mantra/In Audium Dry Bar 0161 236 5920
The Whip/O Fracas/Suka Suka/Orphan Boy Music Box 0161 832 1111
Young Offenders Institute/Hanky Park/Ampersand Academy 3 0161 275 2930

NEWCASTLE
Free Diamonds College
Kubb Global 0191 239 3926
New Model Army/Cord University 0191 261 2606

NORWICH
Lee Gordon/Deltaville/Some Best Friend Waterfront 01603 632717

NOTTINGHAM
Club NME Presents... Littl'ans Stealth 0115 958 0672
Quintron & Miss Pussycat The Social 0115 950 5078
Skindred/Devil Sold His Soul/Skud Junktion 7 0115 911 6959

PORTSMOUTH
Armor For Sleep/Idiot Pilot/Chiodos Wedgewood Rooms 023 9286 3911

SHEFFIELD
The Baghdaddies/Bison Boardwalk 0114 279 9090
Dropkick Murphys Leadmill 0114 221 2828

SOUTHAMPTON
Barbar Luck/Hung Up Joiners 023 8022 5612

STOKE
Agent Blue/Action Plan Sugarmill 01782 214991

STOKESLEY
Northern Heights Roseberry 01642 710296

YORK
Nigel Clark/Kryah/Backline Fibbers 01904 651 250

FRIDAY

December 16

ABERDEEN
Indian Red Lopez Café Drummond 01224 624642

BATH
The Heys/3ds Porter Cellar Bar 01225 404445

BEDFORD
¡Forward, Russia!/Sui Juris Angel 01234 340251

BIRMINGHAM
Anaal Nathrakh/Ramesses/Narcosis/Chemical Vomit Edwards No 8 0121 643 5835
Dexter/My Secret Life/Soldier Flapper & Firkin 0121 236 2421
The Inklings/Vigilante Wing/Liner Actress & Bishop 0121 236 7426
The Lunar Society/Paperweight Industry/Awaiting Approval Carling Bar Academy 0121 262 3000

BRIGHTON
Air Formation/UpC DownC LeftC RightC ABC+Start/Everything For Miles Freebutt 01273 603974

CAMBRIDGE
Mount Houly Band/Late Risers/Facing The Sun Portland Arms 01223 357268

CARDIFF
Innercity Pirates/Red City/The Dirty Looks Barfly 029 2066 7658

DERBY
Blue Horses Flowerpot 01332 204955
Wagstaffe/The Gary Colemans/Despondent/Hostyle Takeover/HoofBite/Penny Chew/4 Step Process Victoria Inn 01332 740091

DUBLIN
DJ Format Crawdaddy 00 3531 478 0225

EDINBURGH
Michael Hargan/The Kays/Lavelle Cabaret Voltaire 0131 220 6176
New Model Army Liquid Rooms 0131 225 2564
Red Bee Society/123 And The Fours Caledonian Backpackers 0131 226 2939

FOLKESTONE
Hard-Fi/Humanzi Leas Cliff Hall 01303 253193

GLASGOW
Biffy Clyro King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
Crazy P/Andrew Divine/Simon Bigbeat Arches 0141 221 4001
Duran Duran SECC 0141 248 3000
Hundred Reasons Barfly 0870 907 0999
Mick Talbot/Steve White/Damon Minchella ABC2 0141 204 5151
The Saw Doctors Barrowlands 0141 552 4601

HARROGATE
The King Bs Blues Bar 01423 566881

HERTFORD
Days Ago/Tuba Head/Eracol Marquee Club 01992 414242

HIGH WYCOMBE
Psyche Out/Fell City Girl/Cats And Cats And Cats/You Slut/The Wutars White Horse 01494 527672

LEEDS
Monster Killed By Lazer/Johnny Poindexter/Ten Seconds Of Chaos Packhorse 0113 245 3980

LEICESTER
Armor For Sleep/Idiot Pilot/Chiodos Charlotte 0116 255 3956
Devilish Presley/The Fourty Fours/Belvoir Suite/The Lusts Attik 0116 222 3800

LIVERPOOL
Club NME Presents... Littl'ans Carling Academy 0870 7712000
The Diesel Fitters/Dom Newton/Richie McGuirk/Tom George Barfly Bar 0151 707 6171
Echo & The Bunnymen Carling Academy 0870 771 2000

The Horrors, Holloway Road Rocket, London

Inner City Sumo/The Alphites/Apatt/Outl4w/Brute Forsyth Barfly @ Masque 0151 707 6171

LONDON
Club NME Presents... Cagedbaby/Braund Reynolds Koko 0207 387 0428
Coldplay/Richard Ashcroft Earls Court Exhibition Hall SW5 0870 903 9033
The Delta Blues/Vibration White Finger/Black Cab Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Free Repeater/Dancing With Henry/Jason & The Astronauts King's Cross Water Rats WC1 020 7336 7326
Freefaller Highbury Corner Garage N5 020 7607 1818
Global Noise Attack/Scintilla/Trash Monroe/The Poise Rite Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358
Hard Skin/The Restarts/Death Race/Scrotum Clamp Grosvenor SW9 0871 223 7992
The Horrors/Blood Safari Holloway Road Rocket N7 020 7753 3200
Hyper/Loose Cannons Old Street Cargo EC2 020 7613 7731
Jackson Warehouse/Plugs/I Love You Goodbye/George Bethnal Green Pleasure Unit E2 020 7729 0167
Joeyfat/Shooting At Unarmed Men Buffalo Bar N1 020 7359 6191
Kino Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2 020 7734 5547
M Craft Aldgate East Spitz E1 020 7392 9032
Milk Kan Jamm SW9 020 7274 5537
Mono Taxi/The Mules/The Sequins/Happy Attack Brixton Windmill SW2 020 8671 0700
The November Five/Sex Machina Islington Hope'n'Anchor N1 020 7354 1312
One Eyed Jacks/The View/Pretty Polly Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516
Orange Goblin/Scissorfight/Blood Island Raiders Camden Underworld NW1 020 7482 1932
Seven Seconds Of Love/Sucker/The Cuban Heels/The Vamps Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
Sol Devious 12 Bar Club WC2 020 7916 6989

MANCHESTER
Blondie Carling Apollo 0870 401 8000
From Mars Ashton Under Lyne, Witchwood 0161 344 0321
Misty's Big Adventure/Myoho/The Lounge Academy 3 0161 275 2930

NEWCASTLE
Delirious? Carling Academy 0870 771 2000

NORTHALLERTON
The Hair/Syncrownized New County Arms 01609 775 733

NOTTINGHAM
Future Ex-Wife/Thousands Of Reflections/Kudzu Junktion 7 0115 911 6959
Thanksgiving/Cape Wrath Raffles Arts Café

OXFORD
A Silent Film/Harry Angel/Bombshoe/A Suitable Case For Treatment Zodiac 01865 420042

SHEFFIELD
Connie Lush Boardwalk 0114 279 9090
Daybreak DnR 0114 275 3750

SOUTHAMPTON
The Fight/Flaming Homer/Secluded/Second Skin Joiners 023 8022 5612
Mo Indigo Talking Heads 023 8055 5899

SUNDERLAND
The Abcds Boulevard 0191 5673938

SWINDON
Bad Obsession Furnace 01793 534238

WOLVERHAMPTON
Die So Fluid/Not So Superheroes/Planet 01902 421991

YORK
The Yards National Centre For Early Music 01904 658338

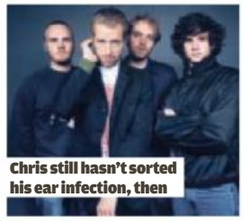
Roll Deep fall in a heap. We can be rappers too

RADIO The 6 Music Selector
All day, BBC 6Music
Do not adjust your DAB radio, **Franz** are controlling the transmission.

RADIO Rockin' With Suzi Q
9pm Radio 2
Hear the story behind **Johnny Cash**'s 'Folsom Prison Blues'.

RADIO Annie Mac
9pm Radio 1
Dizzee Rascal's old crew **Roll Deep** are mini-mixing tonight.

TV Pop Years
8am Sky One
1981: **Depeche Mode** learned to 'Speak & Spell', while **Bucks Fizz** stripped to Eurovision victory.


Chris still hasn't sorted his ear infection, then

TV Friday Night with Jonathan Ross
10.35pm BBC1
Dave Grohl provides Wossy with some Foo for thought.

RADIO The Music Week
7pm BBC 6Music
Find out how much former Christmas Number Oners get in royalties this time of year.

RADIO Steve Lamacq
4pm BBC 6Music
Some **Coldplay**ers parachute in to talk about this, that, 'X&Y'.

TV BBC Four Sessions
9pm BBC4
Antony And The Johnsons perform a set in a London church.

Book now with NME Tickets: www.nme.com/gigs or 0870 1663 663 Calls are charged at national standard rate

PHIL WALLIS/DREW FARRELL/TOM OXLEY/SONIA MELOT/CAPITAL PICS/CLAIRE MORRIS/JAMES LOOKER/DEAN CHALKLEY/ANDREW KENDALL/PATRICIA BROWN/ED MILES/GUY EPPEL/

SATURDAY

December 17

ABERDEEN
Stereo Glow/Arrowspeed Café Drummond 01224 624642

ALDERSHOT
Reuben West End Centre 01252 330040

BATH
7 Seconds Of Love Moles 01225 404445

BIRMINGHAM
Duran Duran NEC 0121 780 4133
The Shocks/Blackballoon Flapper & Firkin 0121 236 2421

BRIGHTON
Hard Skin/The Restarts/Combat Shock Freebutt 01273 603974

BRISTOL
Jane Taylor Folk House 0117 926 2987
Loud Ugly & Crap Louisiana 0117 926 5978

CAMBRIDGE
Neck Man On The Moon 01223 474144

CARDIFF
Nigel Clark Band/Niko/Selfish Kings Barfly 029 2066 7658

DERBY
Cruel Humanity Victoria Inn 01332 740091

GLASGOW
Club NME Presents... Station: Project School Of Art 0141 353 4530
Embrace/The Bees SECC 0141 248 3000
Mr David Viner & The Holy Redeemers/Raising Kain Barfly 0870 907 0999
Terra Diablo/Your Scarecrow/All My Logic King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
Yellowcard Garage 0141 332 1120

HARROGATE
Jed Thomas Band Blues Bar 01423 566881

HERTFORD
Free At Last Marquee Club 01992 414242

HULL
The Landaus/The Vels Welly Club 01482 221113

LEEDS
The Bazaars/The Labels/Bazooka Josephine Mixing Tin 0113 246 8899
Buen Chico/Lusk/July Rising Vine 0113 203 1821
New Minds Eye/Santa Carla/The Jakpot Carpe Diem 0113 243 6264
New Model Army Metropolitan University 0113 283 2600
O Fracas/Fear Of Music/Wax Planet Faversham 0113 245 8817
The Quireboys/Planet Of Women Cockpit 0113 244 3446

LEICESTER
Sonic Boom 6 Attik 0116 222 3800
UK Subs/The Vibrators/Barnyard Masturbator/Small Print Charlotte 0116 255 3956

LIVERPOOL
Delirious University, Academy 4 0151 256 5555

Echo & The Bunnymen/The Little Flames Carling Academy 0870 771 2000
Players/Quincy Jones' Fat Mum University, Academy 3 0151 256 5555

LONDON
Armor For Sleep/Idiot Pilot/Chiodos Highbury Corner Garage N5 020 7607 1818
Blondie/Hugh Cornwell Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000
Dexter Bentley/Wet Dog/Male/Jail 12 Bar Club WC2 020 7916 6989
Emma Peel Fan Club Kentish Town Forum NW5 020 7344 0044
Foo Fighters/The Futureheads Earls Court Exhibition Hall SW5 0870 903 9033
Gallows/The Abner/Kisai Falls Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
InMe Charing Cross Road Astoria WC2 020 7434 0403
Indigo Down/Little Monkeys Leicester Square Marquee W1 020 7336 7326

The Futureheads, Earls Court, London

Los Skeletones/Rhesus/The Favours/Fuzz Valentine Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
Mike Sanchez Oxford Street 100 Club W1 020 7636 0933
My Pet Me/Enter Shakiri/Fell Silent Islington Carling Bar Academy N1 0870 166 3663
S*M*A*S*H/My Luminaries/The Cut/The Heartwear Process King's Cross Water Rats WC1 020 7336 7326
The Saw Doctors Carling Academy Islington N1 0870 771 2000
Scorching Bay/John Metcalfe South Bank Purcell Room SE1 020 7960 4242
The Shakes/The Shook/The Brights Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2 020 7734 5547
The Sloanes/The Butterflies/The Dead Roads Islington Hope'n'Anchor N1 020 7354 1312
Status Quo Wembley Arena Pavilion 0870 739 0739
Stereophonics/The Subways Wood Green Alexandra Palace N22 020 8365 2121
Super Smile/Movie/The Blacklines/The Wonderful All Stars Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358
Teish O'Day/Kyoshi/Blue Rose/FLNE/Thomas Jay Angel Lark In The Park N1 020 7278 5781
This Is Menace/The Lucky 9/Send More Paramedics/The Ghost Of A Thousand Mean Fiddler WC2 020 7434 9592
Treecreeper/The Tailors Brixton Windmill SW2 020 8671 0700
Urban Voodoo Machine Aldgate East Spitz E1 020 7392 9032
Vincent Vincent And The Villains/Kill Kill Disconnect Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516

MANCHESTER
The Pogues Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000

NORTHAMPTON
Demob Soundhaus 01604 250898

NOTTINGHAM
Alias/Christ The Social 0115 950 5078
DJ Format Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484
Swimming/ASA/We Show Up On Radar Junktion 7 0115 911 6959

OLDHAM
Club NME Presents... Pure Reason Revolution Castle 0161 626 4237

OXFORD
Fell City Girl/Sunnyvale Noise Subelement/Richard Walters/Aisle 22 Zodiac 01865 420042

PORTSMOUTH
Silver Beatles Wedgewood Rooms 023 9286 3911

SHEFFIELD
Glory Days Boardwalk 0114 279 9090
The Stranglers Corporation 0114 276 0262

STOKE
Club NME Presents... Little Man Tate/Pro Forma Underground 01782 219944

SOUTHAMPTON
Derrin Neuendorf & Jamie O'Keefe Talking Heads 023 8055 5899
Fleeing New York/The Dirty Whites/Edward J Hicks Lennons 023 8057 0460
Hard-Fi/Humanzi Guildhall 023 8063 2601
Stu Dent & The Wankers Joiners 023 8022 5612

SWINDON
Truth Be Told/Baysix/Chokeslam/Shadow Law Furnace 01793 534238

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Anti Nowhere League Forum 08712 777101

YORK
Hundred Reasons/Brigade Fibbers 01904 651 250

SUNDAY

December 18

BATH
The Kingswingers Moles 01225 404445

BELFAST
Oasis/Shack Odyssey 028 9073 9074

BIRMINGHAM
Daniel Powter Carling Academy 2 0121 262 3000
Exploder/Sicfelt/Sixdaysober/Blood Of The Enemy/Superreal/Sweet Seduction/The Harpies/State Of Serenity Edwards No 8 0121 643 5835
Players Carling Bar Academy 0121 262 3000

BRIGHTON
Flannel/Los Albertos Concorde 2 01273 673311

BRISTOL
The Advocate Generals/Transit Cop/Kashmir Fleece 0117 945 0996
The Avenue/Eleven Eleven Louisiana 0117 926 5978
Sweet Laredo/3D/Tim Thorne Folk House 0117 926 2987

CARDIFF
Rachel Taylor-Beales/Rhodri Welsh Barfly 029 2066 7658

EDINBURGH
Tyrant Lizard Kings Liquid Rooms 0131 225 2564

EXETER
Nixon & The Burn/Kolo & White Lies Cavern Club 01392 495370

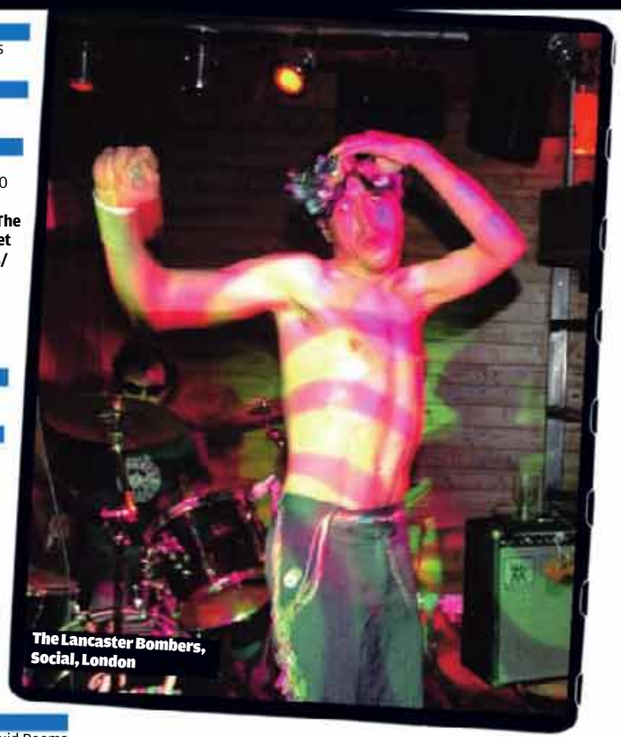
GLASGOW
The Cinematics/The Fratellis/Recliner King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
Drive By Argument/Mia/Tempercalm Barfly 0870 907 0999
Emma Pollock Upstairs At The Barfly 0870 907 0999
Pelican ABC 0870 903 3444

HARROGATE
CJ Smith & The Renegades Blues Bar 01423 566881

LEICESTER
Fallen/Burn Paradise Charlotte 0116 255 3956

LIVERPOOL
Fear Of Music/The Circle Carling Academy 2 0870 771 2000
Mark Owen Barfly @ Masque 0151 707 6171
The Void/Eventide/Karmatruffle/The Light/Monic Cavern Club 0151 236 1964

LONDON
Foo Fighters/Supergrass/Millionaire Earls Court Exhibition Hall SW5 0870 903 9033
High Rise/The Rollinson Affair/The Red Shift/Great White Hope Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
James Yorkston The Luminaire NW6 020 7372 7123


The Lancaster Bombers, Social, London

The Lancaster Bombers/The Shots Oxford Circus Social W1 020 7636 4992
Orenda Fink/May Day/Prego Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2 020 7734 5547
Oxen Of The Sun/Manic Cough/Asja Auf Capri/Hot Silk Pockets/Ghost Club Aldgate East Spitz E1 020 7392 9032
Prix/The Unfortunates/Lance Uppercut Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358
The Red Chord/Mistress/Reth/Hangover Heartattack Camden Underworld NW1 020 7482 1932
Roland Shanks/The Capes Brixton Windmill SW2 020 8671 0700
Shakin' Stevens Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000
Silverscreen/Jynxt/Jaks/Magnateek/Allie McCann Angel Lark In The Park N1 020 7278 5781
This Is Menace Charing Cross Road Mean Fiddler WC2 020 7434 9592

MANCHESTER
Duran Duran Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000
Other Side Of Sound/Probe/Silverwing/Alecto Academy 3 0161 275 2930
Yellowcard Academy 2 0161 275 2930

NEWCASTLE
Coldplay/Richard Ashcroft Metro Radio Arena 0870 707 8000
Le Cedar
Noir Head Of Steam 0191 232 4379
Tens & Units Egypt Cottage 0191 232 0218

NOTTINGHAM
The Stranglers/Stiff Little Fingers/The Beat/Anti Nowhere League/Neville Staples Rock City 0115 941 2544

OXFORD
Hard-Fi/Humanzi Brookes University 01865 484750

PETERBOROUGH
Enter Shikari/To Her Horror/Fell Silent/Khalo/Erika Black Met Lounge 01733 566100

PORTSMOUTH
Levellers/Seth Lakeman Guildhall 023 9282 4355

SHEFFIELD
Dead Like Harry/Linda Business Boardwalk 0114 279 9090
Richard Hawley Leadmill 0114 221 2828

SOUTHAMPTON
¡Forward, Russia!/Paper Cuts/Dead! Dead! Dead! Joiners 023 8022 5612

STIRLING
The Proclaimers Albert Hall 01786 473544

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Ariel X/4th Wall/Aurora Forum 08712 777101

YORK
Throwdown/Last Chance To Dance Fibbers 01904 651 250

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO A GIG...

Macca, bless him: we all shrink with age y'know

RADIO Dermot O'Leary
5pm Radio 2
Noel and **Liam Gallagher** will Be There Then, then.

RADIO Break On Through
8.30pm Radio 2
The story of the 'Strange Days' and 'LA Women' of **The Doors**.

TV Chaos And Creation
10.30pm BBC2
Paul McCartney shows a live audience how he writes songs.

TV Storytellers: Coldplay
11.30pm Channel 4
Coldplay sing a bit in front of the Brooklyn Academy Of Music.

Ordinary Boys all fail to colour-coordinate with that door

TV Hit 40 UK
8.50am Channel 4
Ian Brown sings 'Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer'.

RADIO Razor Cuts
8pm Virgin Radio
Last ever show sees Pete Mitchell say goodbye with guests **New Order** and **Brian Wilson**.

TV New Kings Of Rock & Roll
1am Channel 4
Extraordinary sets from **The Ordinary Boys** and **FFAF**.

TV Later with Jools Holland
1am BBC2
Arcade Fire: the best thing to come out of Canada since maple syrup.

Book now with NME Tickets: www.nme.com/gigs or 0870 1663 663 Calls are charged at national standard rate

MONDAY

December 19

BATH
So Am I/Rush And The Fighter Pilots Moles 01225 404445

BELFAST
Oasis/Shack Odyssey 028 9073 9074

BIRMINGHAM
Mark Owen Barfly 0870 907 0999
Skindred/Devil Sold His Soul/Sicfelt Edwards No 8 0121 643 5835

BRIGHTON
The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster Concorde 2 01273 673311

BRISTOL
Bad Manners Fleece 0117 945 0996
Chic Thug Louisiana 0117 926 5978

CAMBRIDGE
Decline/Sometime Never/End It On This Portland Arms 01223 357268

CARDIFF
Broken Sleep/Doloroso/Benchmark Barfly 029 2066 7658

DERBY
Swimming/The Late Grates/Dew Victoria Inn 01332 740091

EXETER
Robolint/Resonate/Ben Goddard Cavern Club 01392 495370

GLASGOW
Misty's Big Adventure/Kalieda King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

LEEDS
Pen Knife Love Life/Laruso Vine 0113 203 1821

LEICESTER
Random Logic/Alternate Reality/The Jist Charlotte 0116 255 3956

LONDON
Active M/Opus Bridge/First Subject/Black Light UK/The Deads Shepherds Bush Bush Hall W12 020 8222 6955
Black Eyed Peas Hammersmith Carling Apollo W6 0870 606 3400
Bleed The Sky/Bridge To Solace Camden Underworld NW1 020 7482 1932
Broken Social Scene Old Street Cargo EC2 020 7613 7731
Daniel Powter Carling Academy Islington N1 0870 771 2000
Destrega/The Articles/Markapeace/Pod Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358
Future Kings Of England/Joana & The Wolf/Flowstate/Tamsin Wharley Aldgate East Spitz E1 020 7392 9032
Hard-Fi Charing Cross Road Astoria WC2 020 7434 0403
Hell Is For Heroes/Jacobs Stories/Metronomes Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516
Hiatus/Fei Comodo/The Soviet Ladykillers/Bad Innocence Brixton Telegraph SW2 020 8678 0777
Hot Chip Trash @ The End 020 7419 9199
The Human League Kentish Town Forum NW5 020 7344 0044
Husky/Philadelphia Spectrum/Zacharious Carls Group/The Jack Stafford Foundation Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
Karma Truffle/Thinking People's Society/C*Bob/Mirror Signal Crash Islington Hope'n'Anchor N1 020 7354 1312
Les Incompetents/Robochrist/Mike Newsham Tottenham Court Road Metro Club W1 020 7437 0964
Mr David Viner/The Bishops/OMDS/Jo Hertz Oxford Circus Social W1 020 7636 4992
Norton/Just Wendy Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2 020 7734 5547
Planet Of Women/Mohair/Joan Ov Arc Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Ray/Blue Racoon/Lunar Jet Man/Video Fan King's Cross Water Rats WC1 020 7336 7326
Roland Shanks Bethnal Green Pleasure Unit E2 020 7729 0167

MANCHESTER
Akuma/Forgotten Hopefuls/The Lava Beds/The People Involved Academy 2 0161 275 2930
Coldplay/Richard Ashcroft Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000

MIDDLESBROUGH
Club NME Presents... Black Wire Empire 01642 253553

NEWCASTLE
Club NME Presents... Pure Reason Revolution Other Room 0191 261 9755
Enter Shaikari Head Of Steam 0191 232 4379
Viva Melodica/Syris Cooperage 0191 233 2940

OXFORD
Throwdown/Ionica/Sow Zodiac 01865 420042

SHEFFIELD
Sub Tonics/The Audio Riot/General Disarray/Loyal Concept Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

SOUTHAMPTON
Robby And The Raindeers/Schoolboy Error/Speaking Of Losers/Harpoon Larsen Joiners 023 8022 5612

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Kobrakai/Monocracy/The Heaters Forum 08712 777101

YORK
God Forbid/Mendeed/Kingsize Blues Fibbers 01904 651 250

Hard-Fi, Astoria, London

TUESDAY

December 20

BIRMINGHAM
Ocean Colour Scene Carling Academy 0121 262 3000
UB40 NEC 0121 780 4133

BRISTOL
Souls/First Of The Giants Louisiana 0117 926 5978

CAMBRIDGE
Enter Shikari Portland Arms 01223 357268

CARDIFF
May Contain Nuts/The Wheelchair Getaway Drivers/The Blocked Barfly 029 2066 7658

DERBY
The Strollers/The Void Club Victoria Inn 01332 740091

DUBLIN
Blondie Olympia 00 3531 679 3323

GLASGOW
God Forbid/Mendeed/Kingsize Blues Barfly 0870 907 0999
Sucioperro/What The Blood Revealed/Orko/Red Snowman King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

HUDDERSFIELD
Club NME Presents... Pure Reason Revolution Tokyo 01484 432100

The Hot Puppies, Kings Cross Water Rats, London

LEEDS
Free Diamonds/Itch/Let Airplanes Circle Overhead Packhorse 0113 245 3980
Holy Crap! My Face!/Late Night Dog Fight/Dungeon Nun/Vivafriends The Common Place 0845 345 7334
New Legends/Your Fatal Error/Red Room Theory Cockpit 0113 244 3446

LEICESTER
Despondent/Pendleton/Switch NX/Skatch/Doof Attik 0116 222 3800
Skindred/Devil Sold His Soul/For Sale Charlotte 0116 255 3956

LIVERPOOL
Dead Men Walking/The 5-0's Cavern Club 0151 236 1964

LONDON
The Bazookas/Shock Defeat/Eddy Fink/The Monks Kitchen Shoreditch On The Rocks E2 020 7278 1074
Chase/This Machine/The Twice/The Gullivers Camden Caernarvon Castle NW1 020 7284 0219
Chrome Hoof White Heat @ Madame Jo Jo's W1 020 7734 2473
The Coal Porters/Blind Willie And Poor Boys Oxford Circus Social W1 020 7636 4992
The Darling Reds/Eastroad Bethnal Green Pleasure Unit E2 020 7729 0167
The Hot Puppies/The Lonely Band/Hickey King's Cross Water Rats WC1 020 7336 7326
Nizlopi Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2 020 7734 5547
Pelican King's Cross Scala N1 020 7833 2022
The Pogues/Dropkick Murphys Brixton Carling Academy Brixton SW9 020 7771 3000
Rod Stewart Earls Court Exhibition Hall SW5 0870 903 9033
Sludgefeast/Ghouls Aloud/Computerman Brixton Windmill SW2 020 8671 0700
Testswitch Isolator/Clone The Fragile/The Author Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516
Throwdown Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Vanlustbader Tottenham Court Road Metro Club W1 020 7437 0964
Wirelake/Run:Stop/The Bad Robots Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358
The Young Playthings/Hundred Handed/An Emergency/Neat People The Luminaire NW6 020 7372 7123

MANCHESTER
Daniel Powter Academy 2 0161 275 2930
Silent Partners/Kni9hts/The Tides/The Winsome Roadhouse 0161 228 1789

NOTTINGHAM
Sneinton Stooges/The Spazzmatics/Fix It Kid Junktion 7 0115 911 6959

PORTSMOUTH
The Exposed/Humungus Douglas/It's All About The Tunes These Days Wedgewood Rooms 023 9286 3911
Kev Hardy/Andy & Jack/Dawn Chorus Edge Of The Wedge 023 9286 3911

SHEFFIELD
One Eleven Band Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

SOUTHAMPTON
Arnie Cottrell & Rick Tarrant/Simply Gone Talking Heads 023 8055 5899
Eve's Only Son/Jarvis Fields/Liner/The Pleasant Sounds Joiners 023 8022 5612

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Get Cape, Wear Cape, Fly/Elegant Bachelors Forum 08712 777101

Go! Go! Gadget palms!

RADIO Evening Sequence
7pm BBC 6Music
Go ahead, listen to **Don Letts** – the man who made that Clash doc.

RADIO Lamacq Live
9pm Radio 1
Lamacq's is packed with guests **The Futureheads**, **Morning Runner** and the **Kaisers**.

TV Green Day: Live In Milton Keynes
12am Channel 4
Green Day are the dons of MK this evening.

TV Later With Jools Holland
12.55am BBC2
Yo! Mofo! Come watch **The Go! Team**.

Delays are to be expected in London

RADIO Nemone's Dream Ticket
10pm BBC 6Music
PJ Harvey talks and plays. Occasionally at the same time!

TV New Kings Of Rock'n'Roll
12.40am Channel 4
Delays dilly-dally from the Carling Academy in Islington.

TV Later With Jools Holland
12.55am BBC2
New Order and **The Coral** play for me Jooly.

TV Advent 2005
10.15pm BBC4
David Bowie duets with **Bing Crosby** in today's window of this TV musical advent calendar.

GET IN THE GIG GUIDE Do you want to get your gig included in the biggest and best weekly music gig guide? Click on to NME.COM/gigs and submit your free listing. Entries must be made at least three weeks in advance of the gig date.

WEDNESDAY

December 21

ABERDEEN
Paul DiAnno/Maiden Scotland Café Drummond 01224 624642

BATH
Ben Hill Porter Cellar Bar 01225 404445

BELFAST
Blondie Waterfront 028 9033 4455
Coldplay/Richard Ashcroft Odyssey 028 9073 9074

BIRMINGHAM
UB40 NEC 0121 780 4133

BRISTOL
Doreen Doreen Fleece 0117 945 0996
Jenny Crook Folk House 0117 926 2987
Minerva Louisiana 0117 926 5978

CAMBRIDGE
Soul Takers Portland Arms 01223 357268

CARDIFF
Kilo-C/The A470 Experiment/Private Sector Barfly 029 2066 7658

DERBY
Blind Ignorance/Enemo J/Gift Wrapped Fist/Grim Olde Victoria Inn 01332 740091

DUBLIN
Oasis/Shack Point 00 3531 836 3633

GLASGOW
Circus/The Hostiles Upstairs At The Barfly 0870 907 0999
Daniel Powter King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
Ocean Colour Scene ABC 0870 903 3444
The Proclaimers Carling Academy 0870 771 2000
Skindred Barfly 0870 907 0999

HARROGATE
Redwood Thinkers Blues Bar 01423 566881

HASTINGS
Chas'n'Dave Brass Monkey 01273 685906

HERTFORD
Ellis Wayman Marquee Club 01992 414242

LEEDS
Electra Kill/Pigeons Will Rule Primrose 0113 262 1368
The Rain Dogs/The Durbervilles New Roscoe 0113 246 0778

LEICESTER
Jif/Digital Garden/Apache Rose/King Gale's Harem Charlotte 0116 255 3956
Tired Irie/Fight Fire With Water/Maybeshewill/Dragonflies Draw Flame Attik 0116 222 3800

LIVERPOOL
God Forbid/Mendeed/Kingsize Blues Barfly @ Masque 0151 707 6171

LONDON
Duran Duran Earls Court Exhibition Hall SW5 0870 903 9033
The Good Cause/Tinnitus/Jok/Vehicle Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
Hawkwind Charing Cross Road Astoria WC2 020 7434 0403
Johnny Panic/The Suffrajets/Fatels Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Man Vs Blender/Tocara/Eliminator Jr/Snakebite/Forcecontra Highbury Corner Garage N5 020 7607 1818
Mark Thomas/Robert Newman Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000
The Mispent Bethnal Green Pleasure Unit E2 020 7729 0167
Ms Ls Allstars/Hey Negrita Oxford Circus Social W1 020 7636 4992
New Shapes/Second Sun/Waylaid/Moto Ramm Purple Turtle NW1 020 7383 4976
Niall Barker/Ray/The Black Watch 12 Bar Club WC2 020 7916 6989
Nick Hall/Kovak/Olly Knight Highbury Corner Upstairs At The Garage N5 020 7607 1818
The Players Carling Academy Islington N1 0870 771 2000
The Pogues/Dropkick Murphys Brixton Carling Academy Brixton SW9 020 7771 3000
Punish The Atom/You Slut/The Colony Brixton Windmill SW2 020 8671 0700
The Sneer/Easi/The Blissetts/Deceit Camden Caernarvon Castle NW1 020 7284 0219
Stigmatyr/Class War Croydon Cartoon 020 8239 1616
The Sunbirds/Seeing Scarlet/Lynfield Leicester Square Marquee W1 020 7336 7326
Trencher/Art Of Burning Water/Tiger Force/Silent Front Aldgate East Spitz E1 020 7392 9032
V-Twin/1990's Notting Hill Arts Club W11 020 7460 4459
Vitalic Nag Nag Nag
The Whatcha-Gonna-Do-About-Its Betsy Trotwood 020 7336 7326

MANCHESTER
Bill Davro & The Popes/The Walkers/Rob McCulloch/Lee McMahon Night And Day Café 0161 236 1822

NOTTINGHAM
A Is For Ape/Weeble/Bud Junktion 7 0115 911 6959

OXFORD
The Electric Soft Parade/Trademark/Dusty Sound System/The Walkoff/The Black Madonnas Zodiac 01865 420042

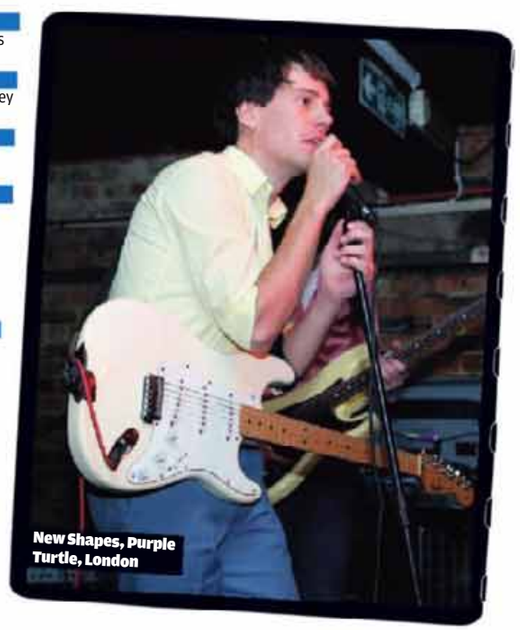
PETERBOROUGH
Hypo Psycho/Radicus/Yellow Snow Met Lounge 01733 566100

PORTSMOUTH
Rolling Dog/Psyattica/Ha! Ha! Party People Wedgewood Rooms 023 9286 3911

SOUTHAMPTON
The Deads/Red Sky/Inept/Mucky Fingers Joiners 023 8022 5612

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Zucchini/Intraverse/Ripchord Forum 08712 777101

YORK
Rick Witter & The Dukes Fibbers 01904 651 250


New Shapes, Purple Turtle, London

THURSDAY

December 22

ABERDEEN
Broughes Café Drummond 01224 624642

BATH
Dynamo's Rhythm Aces/Bucky/Francois Moles 01225 404445
Pete Roe/Phil King Porter Cellar Bar 01225 404445

BIRMINGHAM
GBH/Drongos For Europe Carling Academy 2 0121 262 3000
The Priory/The Fakulty/Iasonic/Reed Stone Overboard Carling Bar Academy 0121 262 3000
Tierce De Picardie/The Bleak/Kid Captain Flapper & Firkin 0121 236 2421

BRISTOL
Los Conios Louisiana 0117 926 5978

CAMBRIDGE
Delphi/The Beards/The LockUp Cycling Club Man On The Moon
Miss Black America/The Visions/Tommy Twist Portland Arms 01223 357268

CARDIFF
God Forbid/Mendeed/Kingsize Blues Barfly 029 2066 7658
People In Planes/Leaving The Capital Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199

DERBY
3 Stories High/Effervescent/Wagstaffe/Blacktop/4 Step Process/One Gone No More Victoria Inn 01332 740091

DUBLIN
Oasis/Shack Point 00 3531 836 3633

EDINBURGH
Skindred Studio 24 0131 558 3758

EXETER
Adequate 7/Boom In The Diamond Industry Cavern Club 01392 495370

GLASGOW
Idlewild Barrowlands 0141 552 4601
Julia Thirteen/Lexxi/The Schitzophonics Barfly 0870 907 0999
Ocean Colour Scene ABC 0870 903 3444

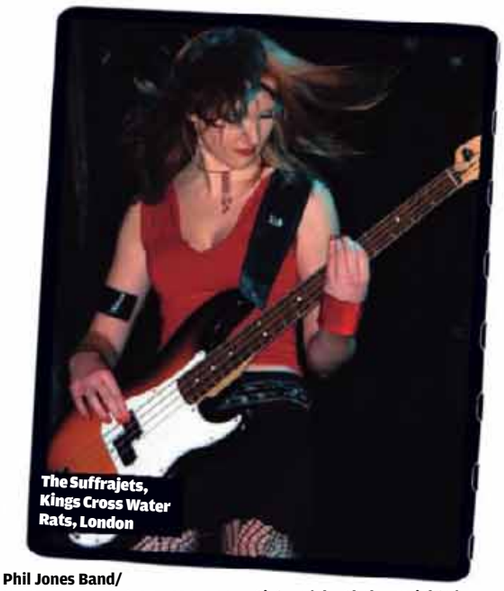
GLOUCESTER
4ft Fingers Guildhall Arts Centre 01452 505089

IPSWICH
Misty's Big Adventure/Rosalita Cock & Pye 01473 254213

LEEDS
45 Revolutions/July Rising/New York Alcoholic Anxiety Attack Mixing Tin 0113 246 8899
Sniper/Badwell Ash Packhorse 0113 245 3980
The Solicitors New Roscoe 0113 246 0778

LEICESTER
Firebrand/Acid Bubblegum/The Ruined Attik 0116 222 3800
Vibronics Charlotte 0116 255 3956

LIVERPOOL
The Idiot Rate/Ji/Codeca/April In May Barfly @ Masque 0151 707 6171


The Suffrajets, Kings Cross Water Rats, London

Phil Jones Band/Holden Cavern Club 0151 236 1964

LONDON
53rd & 3rd Brixton Windmill SW2 020 8671 0700
Ardisson/Kansas City Prophets/Cursominer/Snapmouth/Moq Aldgate East Spitz E1 020 7392 9032
Big Hand/Live Sciences/Divided Opinions Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Delirious? Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000
The Delphian Complex/The W.I.F.E./My Empire Clockwork N1 020 7837 5387
Geko/Teeth Band/The Tripods Croydon Cartoon 020 8239 1616
Jarvis Fields/The Rise/Retrospekt/Morning Lane Bethnal Green Pleasure Unit E2 020 7729 0167
The Modern Soho Madame Jo Jo's W1 020 7734 2473
Nothin' To Lose/Skintight Jaguars/Renegade Playboys/Cavalar Camden Underworld NW1 020 7482 1932
The Pogues/Dropkick Murphys Brixton Carling Academy Brixton SW9 020 7771 3000
The Raid/They Drove Me To It/The Wheels Angel Lark In The Park N1 020 7278 5781
Riding Lights/Friends Of Luca Brasi 12 Bar Club WC2 020 7916 6989
The Rocks/The Flying Medallions/Electricity Comes From Other Planets/Tiger Moth/Kutosis/Olympus Mons/Cheenah Aldgate East Rhythm Factory E1 020 7247 9386
Shadow Side/Heroic Doses Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516
Sixtoes/The Shaker Heights/The Revivals/Marvyn Oates Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
Stumble/Teamonkey/Wherewithal/Pocket Promise Camden Caernarvon Castle NW1 020 7284 0219
The Suffrajets/Resolute/Murkin King's Cross Water Rats WC1 020 7336 7326
The Surgens/Caroline Martin/Matt Mower/David Sugar Betsy Trotwood 020 7336 7326
Tan-Hauser Gate/Freud/Albany Highbury Corner Garage N5 020 7607 1818
Zatopeks/Buzztone/The Blank Heads/Beyond Repair/Ramraid
The Offy Highbury Corner Upstairs At The Garage N5 020 7607 1818

MANCHESTER
Dresden/The Clerks/The Former Bullies/Behind Green Lights Night And Day Café 0161 236 1822

NOTTINGHAM
A Million Voices The Social 0115 950 5078
Tarpot/Pillow Talk Junktion 7 0115 911 6959

OXFORD
Harry Angel/The Invisible/The Corvids Zodiac 01865 420042

SHEFFIELD
Cellarhigh/Volcanoes/Avida Dollars Grapes 0114 249 0909
Limehouse Lizzy Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

SOUTHAMPTON
Wireless/Silent Radio/Dawn Chorus/Afrosnatchers Joiners 023 8022 5612

YORK
Rick Witter & The Dukes Fibbers 01904 651 250

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO A GIG...

Beck loves a good sunset these days. It's behiiind you!

TV Later With Jools Holland
12.55am BBC2
Beck shows up with his two turntables and a microphone.

TV Red Hot Chili Peppers
2.30am ITV1
The story of 'Blood Sugar Sex Magic'.

TV New Kings Of Rock'n'Roll
12.50am Channel 4
The Vines play a fair dinkum set to loads of screamin' Sheilas.

TV Kaiser Chiefs Live At Fillmore
1pm E4
The **Chiefs** play in the hippyville that is San Fransisco.

The snow had melted from Romeo's face, thus making him look less like Santa

TV Later With Jools Holland
12.55am BBC2
Indie-pop heaven as **A And The J's** and **The Magic Numbers** perform.

TV Who Killed The Rolling Stone?
1am More4
Like an episode of *Midsommer Murders* without Bergerac.

TV Fairytale Of New York
11.30pm BBC3
The fairytale behind the best Christmas song ever.

TV John Peel's Record Box
11.55pm More4
Peel's widow, **Sheila Ravenscroft**, talks about his record collection.

Book now with NME Tickets: www.nme.com/gigs or 0870 1663 663 Calls are charged at national standard rate

FRIDAY

December 23

ABERDEEN
Badge Café Drummond 01224 624642

BARNSLEY
Peacock Avenue/The Scrub/Double Yellow Lines Citrus Room 07763 514801

BATH
The Heavy Moles 01225 404445

BIRMINGHAM
Alaska/Curzon Circle/Distant Signal Carling Bar Academy 0121 262 3000

BRIGHTON
Ortha/Daddy Fantastic/Jam Foundation Concorde 2 01273 673311

BRISTOL
Monsoon Lush Folk House 0117 926 2987

CAMBRIDGE
Die Away From Me/Midnight Crazies/The Modal Monks/Sky Quintent/Free Will And The Bad Influences Man On The Moon

CARDIFF
We Are Trees Barfly 029 2066 7658

CARLISLE
Olly Alcock Band Richmond Hall, Brickyard 01228 512220

DERBY
November Sun Victoria Inn 01332 740091

GLASGOW
The Beatstalkers Barrowlands 0141 552 4601
The Pit/Stitch The Arches 0141 565 1023
Trap 6/The Wheels/Sneaky Pete Barfly 0870 907 0999

HERTFORD
Another Story/Waylaid/Subpop Sunday/Eracol Marquee Club 01992 414242

LEEDS
The Lies/Rob Nichols Mixing Tin 0113 246 8899
Needs Fire/SSA/Sellout Flaw/Blind Alberto Packhorse 0113 245 3980

LEICESTER
The Da Da Kings/The Displacements/Massuko Charlotte 0116 255 3956
Pacific Ocean Fire/Don's Mobile Barbers Upstairs At The Charlotte 0116 255 3956
Random Outcome/Egg Me Happy Attik 0116 222 3800

LIVERPOOL
Day With Mary/Twin Method/Duty Paid Barfly Loft @ Masque 0151 707 6171
Velvetine/Plastix/Marsha Swanson/Green Car Legacy Cavern Club 0151 236 1964

LONDON
Bob's Goodtime Blues The Luminaire NW6 020 7372 7123
Bonar Law/The Stetsons/Hotel Ukraine/The Fuss Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
Furthest Drive Home/My Turn To Kill/Cadavorama/9 Months Waiting Highbury Corner Upstairs At The Garage N5 020 7607 1818
The Genome Project/Souther Still/Ben Griffith Betsy Trotwood 020 7336 7326
The Greenwall/The Dyls/Dirty Sweets Angel Lark In The Park N1 020 7278 5781
Isobel/The Super Nashwan Kids/Broadwalk Highbury Corner Garage N5 020 7607 1818
Men From Del'Monte/Ctrl Alt Delete Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358
Metro Riots/Vincent/Crash Convention/The Bishops/Hatcham Social Brixton Windmill SW2 020 8671 0700
My 21 Grams/City On Fire/The Avenue Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Page Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2 020 7734 5547
Red Storm Rising/What About Chad? Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516
Wilko Johnson/Wreckless Eric/Boss Goodman's Juke Joint Oxford Street 100 Club W1 020 7636 0933

MANCHESTER
Helloinertia/Sitting Still/Ideal Crash/Out Of The Grey/Pauline Taylor Night And Day Café 0161 236 1822

NORTHALLERTON
Whitefire New County Arms 01609 775 733

NORTHAMPTON
The Departure Soundhaus 01604 250898

NOTTINGHAM
The Varukers/Certified Junktion 7 0115 911 6959

PETERBOROUGH
Quarto And/Kissing Cousins/Buckle Street Met Lounge 01733 566100

PORTSMOUTH
The Stations/The Strange Death Of Liberal England Wedgewood Rooms 023 9286 3911

SHEFFIELD
Kings Have Long Arms/The Yell/Wrong Toy/Heart Yeah/Friends Of Batman/Thee Sheffield Phonographic Corporation Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

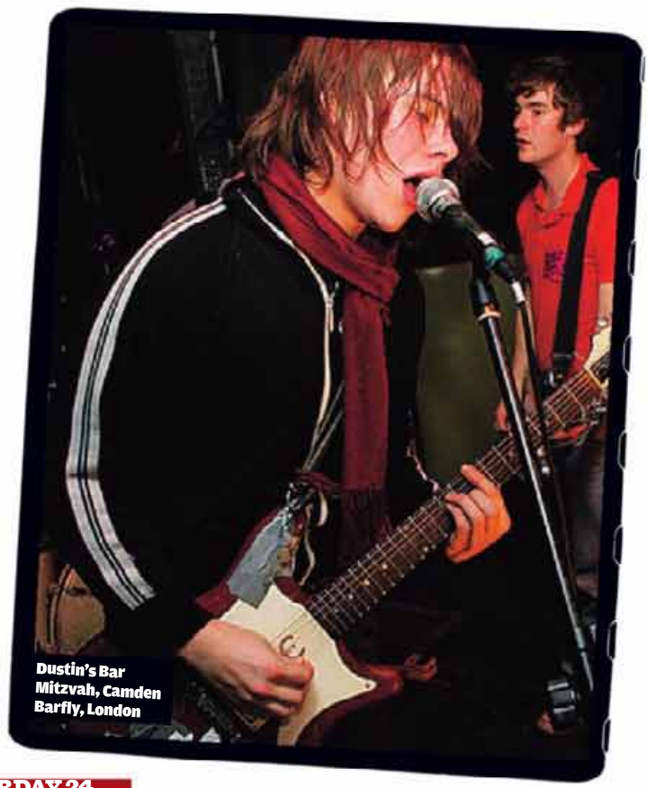
SOUTHAMPTON
Big Red Talking Heads 023 8055 5899
The Family Joiners 023 8022 5612

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Unlabel Forum 08712 777101

Metro Riots, Brixton Windmill, London

XMAS WEEKEND

December 24-27


Dustin's Bar Mitzvah, Camden Barfly, London

SATURDAY 24

EDINBURGH
Bad Manners Citrus Club

GLASGOW
Laker/Lucerna/Redlines King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

LONDON
No Mind/Superego/The Apparatus/Sahara Boat Club Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
The Rips/Sol Devious Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999

NORTHAMPTON
The Litmus Kids/Days Under Fire Soundhaus 01604 250898

STOKE
Club NME Presents... Friends Of Ken/Spectrum Fires Underground 01782 219944

SOUTHAMPTON
Arnie Cottrell & Pete Catlin Talking Heads 023 8055 5899

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Defcon Forum 08712 777101

YORK
The Nosedivers/The Tongue Collective/Breathe Fibbers 01904 651 250

SUNDAY 25

NATIONWIDE
The Stuff Your Faces And Fall Asleep In Front Of The Tellys Your House

MONDAY 26

ABERDEEN
Billy Shears Café Drummond 01224 624642

BATH
The Snugs Moles 01225 404445

COWDENBEATH
96 Tears Junction 01383 611776

GLASGOW
Repeat To Fade/The Towers King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

HARROGATE
Scapegoat Kelly Blues Bar 01423 566881

LIVERPOOL
Laurent Garnier/Miss Honey Dijon Barfly Loft @ Masque 0151 707 6171
The Zutons Carling Academy 0870 771 2000

LONDON
Dustin's Bar Mitzvah Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
The Saints Of Insanity/Miss Nicaragua/Breakneck Brixton Windmill SW2 020 8671 0700

NEWCASTLE
Ignition The Cooperage 0191 233 2940

TUESDAY 27

BIRMINGHAM
Sabotage Left/Sweet Seduction/The Big Bang/Augustine/Johnny Foreigner/Clynder:Sound/The Twang/Dirty Soul Flapper & Firkin 0121 236 2421

CAMBRIDGE
AD/HD/Greg McDonald Portland Arms 01223 357268

DERBY
Ip/Op/Pennychew/Lathkill Victoria Inn 01332 740091

GLASGOW
Alfonzo/Ludovico Barfly 0870 907 0999
The Grim Northern Social King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

LONDON
Junk TV/The Flygarricks/Monsta Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Mourning After/Operation Monday Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358

MANCHESTER
The Unabombers/Laurent Garnier/Norman Jay/Idjut Boys Music Box 0161 832 1111

SOUTHAMPTON
Fatal Argument/Apnia/Aeryn/Septic Rage Joiners 023 8022 5612
Solent City Jazzmen Talking Heads 023 8055 5899

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Scotch Egg/Acid Chemist/Dead Boy Racer Forum 08712 777101

Hope there's no spelling errors in Editors' CD inlay

TV Friday Night With Jonathan Ross
10.35pm BBC1
Richard Ashcroft plays 'Break The Night With Colour'.

TV Later With Jools Holland
1.05am BBC2
Birmingham's **Editors** show Jools around their 'Back Room'.

TV Nothing But Oasis
10am E4
An hour of **Oasis** music videos? You'd have to be mad... for it.

TV Oasis: Live From Manchester
2.30pm E4
Filmed earlier this year to mark the release of 'Don't Believe The Truth'.

Aren't they too old for monkeying around in the playground?

TV Later With Jools Holland
Christmas Eve, 2am, BBC2
I bet **Arctic Monkeys** look good on Jools' circular studio floor.

TV TOTP Christmas Special
Christmas Day, 2pm, BBC1
'05's best-selling artists play including **Coldplay** and the **Kaisers**.

TV Reading Festival
Boxing Day, 4.05am, E4
Featuring **The Killers**, **Foo Fighters**, **Queens Of The Stone Age** and **Kings Of Leon**.

TV Later with Jools Holland
Tues Dec 27, 1.45am, BBC2
Get an eyeful and earful of **Pete Doherty**'s Babyshambolics.

GET IN THE GIG GUIDE Do you want to get your gig included in the biggest and best weekly music gig guide? Click on to NME.COM/gigs and submit your free listing. Entries must be made at least three weeks in advance of the gig date.

CLUBS

The world of indie disco

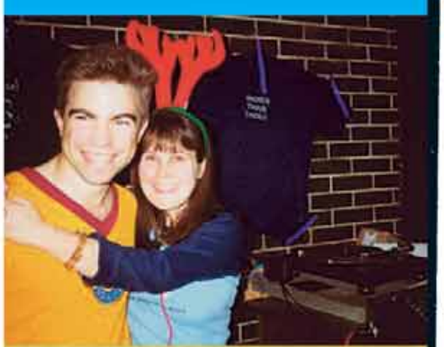
HEAVY LOAD, LONDON

Named after a song by 1970s rock legends, Free, Heavy Load is the place to bring your air guitar, leave your inhibitions at the door, and pretend you're in *Almost Famous* for a few hours.
Why this week? Heavy Load's Xmas bash is all in aid of Cancer Research UK, so you can have fun and do something worthy at the same time! Heavy Load's famous 1970s light projections will also be in full force.
What music will I hear? With Hippie Karen and Heavy Load Rob on the decks, the music takes in the best of big bad bluesy retro rock'n'roll. So The Who, Janis Joplin, Deep Purple, The Faces and Hendrix will all no doubt get an airing.
What else have Heavy Load done? This summer's best oddball festival, Tapestry Goes West; a country rock shin-dig in a wild west theme park in Cornwall, had late night discos in the middle of a soggy field courtesy of the Heavy Load team.

When: Saturday December 17, 9pm-3am, and the last Saturday of every month
Venue: The Phoenix, 37 Cavendish Square, London, W1G OPP
Cost: £3/£5 **Website:** *www.theheavyloadclub.com*

DJ PROFILE

CHRIS & GILL OFFBEAT



What festive songs will you be playing?
"Either The Vandals' 'Oi! To The World' or Chris TT's 'Rise Up Turkeys'. The Stiff Little Fingers cover of 'White Christmas' is rather fine too."
Why should we celebrate Christmas with you at Offbeat?
"You'll get real mistletoe to snog under, the Offbeat Festive chart and they'll be playlist bingo, the return of specially brewed Offbeat beer, plus our December 17 date is the last in our current venue before it is refurbished and enlarged – so you might be able to take home bits of furniture as an early Christmas present..."
What odd things have you seen on the dancefloor?
"There is a strange long-standing tradition where one drunken regular spins people around by their heads – I'm not sure if they enjoy it! And people dancing with brown underpants on their head following a drinks promotion. People also turn up with yams. Or pumpkins."

When: Chris & Gill DJ at Offbeat, fortnightly at The Raynor Lounge, Sheffield University SU, Sheffield

EVENTS OVER XMAS

Email club listings to clubguide@nme.com

14th-20th December

BRISTOL

Thursday
Club Stutter at Manhattan Bar
St. Nicholas Street, 10pm-2am, £3/£4
Cooler than an eskimo eating Häagen-Daz, Stutter gives you the newest, leftfield indie.
www.club-stutter.co.uk

Friday
Ramshackle at Bristol Academy
Frogmore Street, 10pm-3am, £3/£4/£5
Rock your socks off with punk new and old, and indie hits.
www.ramshackle.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE

Wednesday
Club Goo at Portland Arms
Chesterton Road, 8pm-2am, £4/£5
Cambridge's newest indie nights starts off with some gig action courtesy of The Victorian English Gentlemen's Club, and then descends into rock'n'roll bedlam.
www.clubgoo.co.uk

CARDIFF

Wednesday
Popscene at Clwb Ifor Bach
9.30pm, £2.50/£3
A mecca for all that is alternative - come shake your thing to the best of chart and retro tunes.
www.clwb.net

DUBLIN

Wednesday
Antics at Crawdaddy
Harcourt Street, 11pm-3am, €4/€5 Euro
Worship at the altar of all that is indie and do a little dance to everything from Franz to DFA 1970, if the moment takes you.
www.anticsindienight.com

GLASGOW

Sunday
Optimo at The Sub Club
Jamaica Street, 11pm-3am, £5/£6
Every self-respecting Scottish clubbers' favourite night of the week.
A legendary mix-up, mash-out electro stunner of a night that is more than prone to a touch of messiness.
www.optimo.co.uk

LEEDS

Wednesday
Rebellious Jukebox at Wire
Call Lane, 10pm-2am, £3.50/£4
Rebellious isn't the half of it – expect to hear the oddest but mixture of indie rock this side of the weekend.
www.rebelliousjukebox.co.uk

Saturday
Bad Sneakers at The Faversham
Springfield Mount, 7.30pm-3am, £4
O Fracas, Fear of Music and That Fucking Tank grace the stage of New Yorkshire's flagship night.
www.thefaversham.com

LIVERPOOL

Friday
Evol at Korova
Wood Street, 10pm-3am, £4
Ladytron's mutant punk electro disco has Radar live along with the Evol residents spinning discs of sheer joy and Doloruso from Simian.
www.clubevol.tk

LONDON

Wednesday
Stylish Riots at The Scala

DJing: making DJs smile since '63

Pentonville Road, 8pm-late, £6
Towers of London, The Rifles and The Needs play this debauched but always charming night.
www.stylishriots.co.uk

Friday
Dirty Water Club at Boston Music Room
Junction Road, 8.30pm-3am, £6
Tonight, north London's premier dirty rock'n'roll night plays host to Holly Golightly and The Zach Parrish Band all the way from Texas.
www.dirtywaterclub.com

The Fan Club at The Purple Turtle
Crowndale Road, 8pm-2am, £6/£7
Classic long-running indie night, with Sarah Blackwood from Client guest-DJing and live music from Exile Inside and Fosca.
www.thefanclub.info

Bosh at The Barfly
Chalk Farm Road, 10.30pm-3am, £6/£10
Camden's messiest new night boasts The Fratellis live, Tom Vek, Nine Black Alps and Dogs DJing alongside the Fallout and tapedeck record players.

Radio Lollipop at The Rocket
Holloway Road, 9pm-3am, £4/£6
The Horrors and Blood Safari feature live at this night of cutting-edge indie, and retro rock and soul.

Saturday
Smell The Glove at The Intrepid Fox
Wardour Street, 9pm-3am, £5
The kids from Karate Boots bring you a metal night to be scared of. Playing Metallica and the Crüe and KISS.

Feeling Gloomy at Bar Academy
Parkfield Street, 10pm-3am, £5/£7
Just been dumped? Come and cry into your beer with a soundtrack of the most depressing music of all time, played by the DJs mums!
www.feelinggloomy.com

Punk Rock Karaoke, Upstairs at The Garage
Highbury Corner, 8.30pm-2am, £5/£7
Sing The Ramones with a live backing band for the delectation of Mr Steve Lamacq!
www.punkrockkaraoke.co.uk

Monday
Trash at The End
West Central Street, 10pm-3am, £5/£6
Trash's Xmas parties are always special and tonight is no exception, with Hot Chip live!
www.trashclub.co.uk

Tuesday
White Heat at Madame Jo Jos
Brewer Street, 8pm-3am, £3/£4/£5
Tonight the disco of a thousand haircuts has its Xmas party with mental rockers Chrome Hoof.
www.whiteheatmayfair.com

MANCHESTER

Saturday
Smile at Star & Garter
9pm-3am, £3/£4
Your classic no-frills, messy indie night. Be prepared to get scraped off the floor at the end of it all.
www.starandgarter.co.uk

Club NME

BIRMINGHAM DECEMBER 6

"Lovely. You look relaxed, natural. You'll go far in modelling, you two"

Dye your hair black and get in free! (erm, no – Club NME head honcho)

Hugs'n'kisses for all. Unless you're a Darkness fan, that is

More stripes. What is it with stripes EVERY BLOODY WEEK!?

OVER XMAS AT CLUB NME

LEEDS
Warehouse, 19-20 Somers Street, LS1
Wednesday, December 14
Littl'ans

NOTTINGHAM
Stealth, Masonic Place, NG1
Thursday, December 15
Littl'ans

LONDON
KOKO, 1a Camden High Street, NW1
Friday, December 16
Cagedbaby+Braund Reynolds

LIVERPOOL
Carling Academy 2, Hotham Street, L3
Friday, December 16
Littl'ans

STOKE-ON-TRENT
The Underground, Morley Street, ST1
Saturday, December 17
Little Man Tate+Pro Forma
Saturday, December 24
Friends Of Ken+Spectrum Fires

GLASGOW
School of Art, Renfrew Street, G3
Saturday, December 17
Station:Project

MANCHESTER
Club Academy, Manchester University SU, Oxford Road, M13
TBC

MIDDLESBROUGH
The Empire, Corporation Road, TS1 2RT
Monday, December 19
Black Wire

BIRMINGHAM
Custard Factory, Gibb Square, B9 4AA
TBC

HUDDERSFIELD
Tokyo, The Old Court House, Queens Street, HD1
Tuesday, December 20
Pure Reason Revolution

OLDHAM
The Castle, 38 Union Street, Oldham, OL1
Saturday, December 17
Pure Reason Revolution

NEWCASTLE
Newcastle Digital, Times Square, NE1
Monday, December 19
Pure Reason Revolution

COLCHESTER
The Underground, University Of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, CO4
TBC

BOURNEMOUTH
Old Fire Station, 36 Holdenhurst Road, BH8
TBC

NOTTINGHAM
Thursday
Liars Club at The Social
Pelham Street, 9pm-2am, £4
Quintron and Miss Pussycat are tonight's live guests at Nottingham's most infamous spazz-core disco.
www.liarsclub.co.uk

NORWICH
Monday
Lost Youth @ Po Na Na
Bank Plain, 8pm-12.30am, free
Something for the students with an essay due in first thing Tuesday. Hip-hop indie, disco and then all to bed early with a nice cuppa tea.
www.ponana.com

SHEFFIELD
Saturday
Offbeat at Raynor Lounge, *Sheffield Uni SU, 9pm-1am, £3*
The 'Ultimate Indie Disco' according to BBC Radio 6. Pop down and see if they're right.
www.offbeatsheffield.com

Saturday
Sonic Boom @ The Leadmill, *Leadmill Road, 10pm-2.30am, 4/£5*
With indie, motown, soul and the infamous melting-pot room, where almost anything goes. But no pop!
www.leadmill.co.uk

WATFORD
Thursday
Camel Club at Walkabout, *Watford High Street, 8pm-late, free*
The Stetsons play live amongst the best new indie tunes and a fair smattering of '60s and '70s classics.
www.thecamelclub.co.uk

21st-27th December

BATH
Thursday
Go Ape! At Moles Club *George Street, 9pm-2am, £4.50/£5*
Dynamo's Rhythm Aces, a '40s/'50s-style swing band covering punk/indie songs and a Christmas carols service should make this a top indie night out to remember. At least until you get drunk again.
www.myspace.com/goape

BRISTOL
Thursday
Club Stutter at Manhattan Bar *St Nicholas Street, 10pm-2am, £3/£4*
The underground mixes with the overground in this fabulous indie mash-up. Playing great new acts like the Arcade Fire, Art Brut and Club Stutter will leave you lost for words.
www.club-stutter.co.uk

CARDIFF
Wednesday
Popscene at Clwb Ifor Bach, *9.30pm, £2.50/£3*
Classic indie from Blur to the Franz and a bit of funk and disco should you feel the need to dance properly at any time during the night (rather than just pretending you're in The Strokes).
www.clwb.net

Friday
Ramshackle at Bristol Academy *Frogmore Street, 10pm-3am, £3/£4/£5*
Punk anthems and rock in the top bar, and more fragrant indie in the main room.
www.ramshackle.org.uk

DUBLIN
Wednesday
Antics at Crawdaddy *Harcourt Street, 11pm-3am, €4/€5 Euro*
Worship at the altar of all that is indie and do a little dance to everything from Franz to DFA 1970, if the moment takes you.
www.anticsindienight.com

Mark Beaumont's arrival onstage prompts its usual hysteria

EDINBURGH
Thursday
Born To Be Wide at The Street *Picardy Place, 9pm-1am, free*
With DJ sets from Super Paradise and a playback of songs recorded especially for Xmas by Born To Be Wide bands including The Fence Collective, The Zephyrs and The Mitford Girls.
www.borntobewide.co.uk

LIVERPOOL
Friday
Evol at Korova, Wood Street, *10pm-3am, £4*
Ladytron's mutant punk electro disco has The Whip, Automation, The Delta Fiasco and Adult Books DJs along with the Evol residents spinning discs of sheer joy.
www.clubevol.tk

LEEDS
Wednesday
Rebellious Jukebox at Wire *Call Lane, 10pm-2am, £3.50/£4*
Rebellious isn't the half of it – expect to hear the oddest but mixture of indie rock this side of the weekend.
www.rebelliousjukebox.co.uk

LONDON
Thursday
Hillbilly Hop at Buffalo Bar *Upper Street, 8.30pm-2am, £6*
London's premier rockabilly night with Jack Rabbit Slim live and Carl and Mouse on the record players.

Friday
Dirty Water Club at Boston Music Room *Junction Road, 8.30pm-3am, £6*
London's premier dirty rock night plays host to Dave Dulake & The Vertigo Intacta and The Zeema Zees.
www.dirtywaterclub.com

Lady Luck at The Millennium Club *Drury Lane, 9pm-3am, £7/£12*
A night of devil music from the glam-tastic rock, lounge and burlesque club with a saucy Christmas red and black theme.
www.ladyluckclub.co.uk

Tapestry at St. Aloysius Social Club *Phoenix Road, 8pm-late, £3.50/£5*
Like Phoenix Nights crossed with the wild, wild West, Tapestry delivers alt.country and tonight the glorious Pipettes are live!
www.tapestryclub.co.uk

NOTTINGHAM
Thursday
Liars Club at The Social *Pelham Street, 9pm-2am, free*
Tonight's Xmas party live guests at Nottingham's infamous spazz-core disco are Sunshine Underground and A Million Voices.
www.liarsclub.co.uk

BOOK NOW!

FUTURE GIGS ON SALE

Kookin' hell! Catch the Brighton scuzz-poppers through Jan and Feb

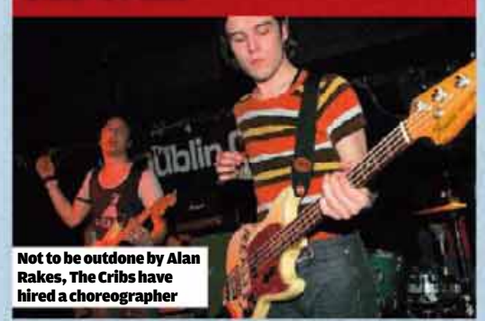
The Strokes

Julian's Bauhaus-tribute side project has had to take a bit of a back seat

Strokesmania hit new highs recently as people lined up in sleeping bags overnight to get into a show, so expect similar hysteria for next year's tour of the latest, greatest album.

On tour: January 19 to February 18

The Cribs



Not to be outdone by Alan Rakes, The Cribs have hired a choreographer

Fresh from supporting Franz and the Kaisers, the fast-rising Wakefield threesome strike out on their own, intent on rewriting the pop rule book and giving scenesters the finger with their incendiary live shows.

On tour: February 13 to February 18

Kanye West

Into The Blue: Kanye takes it to the streets

He brought hip-hop to the masses whilst pleasing the die-hards, and filled an OutKast-shaped hole in the casual hip-hop fan's heart. Now the rapper-producer returns to "tear shit up" nationwide.

On tour: February 16 to February 28

All Tomorrow's Parties
Weekend One (May 12-14) Acts Include Devendra Banhart/ Mudhoney/Yeah Yeah Yeahs/Comets On Fire/Country Teasers **Weekend Two** (May 19-24) Acts Include Ween/ Sleater Kinney/The Shins

Richard Ashcroft
Glasgow ABC (January 20), **Gateshead** Sage (21), **Preston** Guildhall (22), **London** Electric Ballroom (24, 25*,26*)

Bauhaus
Newcastle Carling Academy (January 30), **Manchester** Academy (February 1), **Birmingham** Carling Academy (2), **London** Brixton Carling Academy (3)

The Boy Least Likely To
Brighton Hanbury Ballroom (February 16), **Bristol** Louisiana (17), **Southampton** Joiners (18), **Oxford** Zodiac (19), **Birmingham** Bar Carling Academy (20), **Sheffield** Leadmill (22), **Manchester** Night & Day (23), **Glasgow** King Tut's (24), York Fibbers (25), **Nottingham** Social (26), **London** Bush Hall (28)

Bullet For My Valentine
Cardiff University (January 15), **Bristol** Carling Academy (16), **Nottingham** Rock City (17), **Southampton** Guildhall (19), **Norwich** UEA (20), **Manchester** Academy (21), **Newcastle** Carling Academy (23), **Glasgow** Carling Academy (24), **Leeds** University (25), **Birmingham** Carling Academy (27), **London** Brixton Carling Academy (28)

Cave In
Birmingham Carling Academy 2 (February 28), **Glasgow** ABC 2 (March 1), **Manchester** Academy 3 (2), **Sheffield** Corporation (3), **London** Garage (4), **Oxford** Zodiac (6), **Exeter** Cavern (7), **Cardiff** University (8)

Coldcut
London Cargo (January 19), **Norwich** Waterfront (February 16), **Nottingham** Rescue Rooms (17), **Bexhill** De La Warr Pavilion (18), **Exeter** Lemon Grove (22), **Birmingham** Custard Factory (23), **Manchester** Academy 2 (24), **London** Shepherds Bush Empire (25), **Brighton** Corn Exchange (April 19), **Bristol** Carling Academy (20), **Gateshead** Sage (21), **Dublin** Village (22), **Cardiff** The Point (24), **Sheffield** University (25), **Glasgow** Tramway Theatre (26)

NEW! The Cribs
Birmingham Irish Centre (February 13), **Edinburgh** GIG (14), **Newcastle** Northumbria University (15), **Manchester** Academy 3 (17), **Portsmouth** Wedgewood Rooms (18)

Editors
Bristol Carling Academy (February 24), **Southampton** Guildhall (25) **Norwich** UEA (26) **Manchester** Academy (27), **Glasgow** Barrowland (March 1), **Newcastle** Carling Academy (2), **Birmingham** Carling Academy (3)

Goldfrapp
Cardiff Great Hall (February 1), **Southampton** Guildhall (2), **Cambridge** Corn Exchange (4), **Reading** Hexagon (5), **London** Brixton Carling Academy (9 & 10), **Manchester** Carling Apollo (18), **Liverpool** University (21), **Sheffield** Octagon (23), **Birmingham** Carling Academy (24), **Belfast** Ulster Hall (26), **Dublin** Olympia (27)

The Go! Team
Liverpool Carling Academy (February 15), **Leeds** Metropolitan University (16), **Glasgow** Barrowland (17), **Manchester** Academy (18), **Wolverhampton** Wulfrun Hall (20), **Newcastle** University (21), **Sheffield** Plug (22), **Reading** University (24), **Brighton** Corn Exchange (25), **Bristol** Carling Academy (26), **Norwich** Waterfront (27) **London** KOKO (March 1 & 2*), **Oxford** Brookes University (5), **Leicester** (6), **Cardiff** Coal Exchange (7), **Southampton** University (8)

Kaiser Chiefs
Glasgow SECC (April 19), **London** Alexandra Palace (21 & 22), **Plymouth** Pavilion (24), **Brighton** Convention Centre (25), **Birmingham** NIA (26), **Leeds** Millennium Square (29 & 30)

The Kooks
Southampton Joiners (January 24), **Birmingham** Bar Carling Academy (25), **Cambridge** APU (26), **Bristol** Louisiana (27), **Tunbridge Wells** Forum (28), **Leeds** Cockpit (30), **Nottingham** Social (31), **Manchester** Academy 3 (February 1), **Sheffield** Fuzz Club (2), **Newcastle** Carling Academy (3), **Edinburgh** Venue (5), **Glasgow** King Tuts (6), **Hull** Adelphi (7), **Liverpool** Korova (8), **Oxford** Zodiac (10), **Norwich** Arts Centre (11), **Brighton** Concorde 2 (13), **London** ULU (14)

My Morning Jacket
Birmingham Carling Academy 2 (January 18), **Bristol** University (19), **Manchester** Academy 2 (20) **Glasgow** Oran Mor (21), **Nottingham** Rescue Rooms (23), **Brighton** Concorde (24), **London** Astoria (February 9)

Nine Black Alps
Newcastle Carling Academy (February 15), **Glasgow** ABC (16), **Liverpool** Carling Academy (17), **Portsmouth** Pyramids Centre (19), **Nottingham** Rock City (20), **Cambridge** Junction (21), **Manchester** Academy (25)

ShockWaves NME Awards Tour 2006
Feat. Maximo Park/Arctic Monkeys/ We Are Scientists/Mystery Jets **Dublin** Ambassadors (January 23* & 24), **Belfast** Ulster Hall (25), **Glasgow** Carling Academy (27), **Edinburgh** Corn Exchange (28), **Newcastle** Carling Academy (29), **Nottingham** Rock City (31), **Leeds** University (February 1), **Liverpool** University (2), **Manchester** Academy (4 & 5*), **Sheffield** Octagon (7), **Birmingham** Carling Academy (8), **Norwich** UEA (9), **Cardiff** University (11), **Cambridge** Corn Exchange (12), **Bristol** Carling Academy (13), **Portsmouth** Guildhall (15), **Brighton** Dome (16), **London** Brixton Carling Academy (17)

OK Go
London Islington Bar Carling Academy (January 9), **London** Metro (10), **London** Brixton Windmill (11), **Birmingham** Carling Academy 2 (13), **Newcastle** Carling Academy 2 (14), **Glasgow** King Tuts (15), **Manchester** Night & Day (16), **Leeds** Josephs Well (18), **Bristol** Fleece (19)

Beth Orton
Bristol Colston Hall (February 14), **Brighton** Dome (15), **Norwich** UEA (16), **Warwick** Arts Centre (17), **Nottingham** Rock City (19), **Leeds** Metropolitan University (21), **Manchester** Academy (22), **Glasgow** Barrowland (23), **St Albans** Alban Arena (25), **Cambridge** Corn Exchange (26), **London** Shepherds Bush Empire (27)

The Rakes
Exeter Lemon Grove (January 27), **Portsmouth** Pyramids (28), **Cambridge** Junction (29), **Norwich** Waterfront (30), **Bristol** Anson Rooms (31), **London** Astoria (February 2), **Sheffield** Leadmill (3), **Wolverhampton** (4), **Manchester** Academy 2 (6), **Newcastle** University (7), **Glasgow** QMU (8), **Aberdeen** Moshulu (9), **Dublin** Village (11), **Belfast** Spring & Airbrake (12)

NEW! Rolling Stones
Dublin Phoenix Park (August 18), **London** Wembley Stadium (20), **Glasgow** Hampden Park (25), **Sheffield** Don Valley Stadium (27), **Cardiff** Millennium Stadium (29)

NEW! The Strokes
Belfast Ulster Hall (January 19), **Dublin** Point (20), **London** Shepherds Bush Empire (24) **Bristol** Colston Hall (25), **Nottingham** ICE Arena (27), **Doncaster** Dome (28), **Manchester** Carling Apollo (30 & 31), **Brighton** Centre (February 3), **Portsmouth** Guildhall (4), **Glasgow** Carling Academy (7 & 8), **Edinburgh** Corn Exchange (10), **Hull** City Hall (11), **Wolverhampton** Civic Hall (13), **Blackpool** Empress (14), **London** Hammersmith Apollo (17 & 18)

NEW! Take That
Newcastle Arena (April 24), **Birmingham** NEC (27 & 28), **Glasgow** SECC (30) **Sheffield** Arena (May 2), **Manchester** MEN Arena (5 & 6), **London** Wembley Arena (8 & 9), **Dublin** Point (12), **Belfast** Odyssey (14)

NEW! Kanye West
Manchester MEN (February 16), **Glasgow** SECC (17), **London** Hammersmith Apollo (19), **Cardiff** Arena (22), **London** Theatre Royal Drury Lane (26), **Birmingham** NEC (28)

NB: * = Extra dates added

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ANDREW KENDALL/ANDY WILLSHER/SONIA MELLOT

PICKING OVER THE BONES OF 2005

ZANE LOWE'S PRIDE OF PUNDITS DEVOUR 12 MONTHS OF MUSICAL MAYHEM IN OUR END OF YEAR SPECIAL

ZANE LOWE
(Kiwius Knowledgius Supremicus)
This heavyweight carnivore thrives on music. He feasts on it constantly for both pleasure and survival. Because of his mighty reputation he always commands respect.

TOBY L
(Rockus Feedbackus Maximus)
This giant invertebrate spends most of his adult life in a virtual world where he presides over an intricate web, awaiting his unwitting prey and plotting domination of the musical universe.

ANNIE MAC
(Deejay Miximus Maximus)
This fearsome vixen scavenges the planet for dance music, gorging wherever she finds it in a ritual which attracts literally hundreds of like-minded vertebrates.

CONOR MCNICHOLAS
(Editorium New Musicum Expressus)
Another big beast, this one dispatches his prey with an ink filled lance that renders his victims talentless. This huge primate usually inhabits dark damp areas of towns and cities.

PAUL SMITH
(Maximo Parkus Rockstarius)
A warm-blooded biped who inhabits the frozen wastes of the North East. Usually hunts as leader of a close-knit musical pack and possesses a distinctive roar which many other bipeds enjoy.

SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER AT 8PM ON MTV2

REPEATED CHRISTMAS DAY AT 8PM

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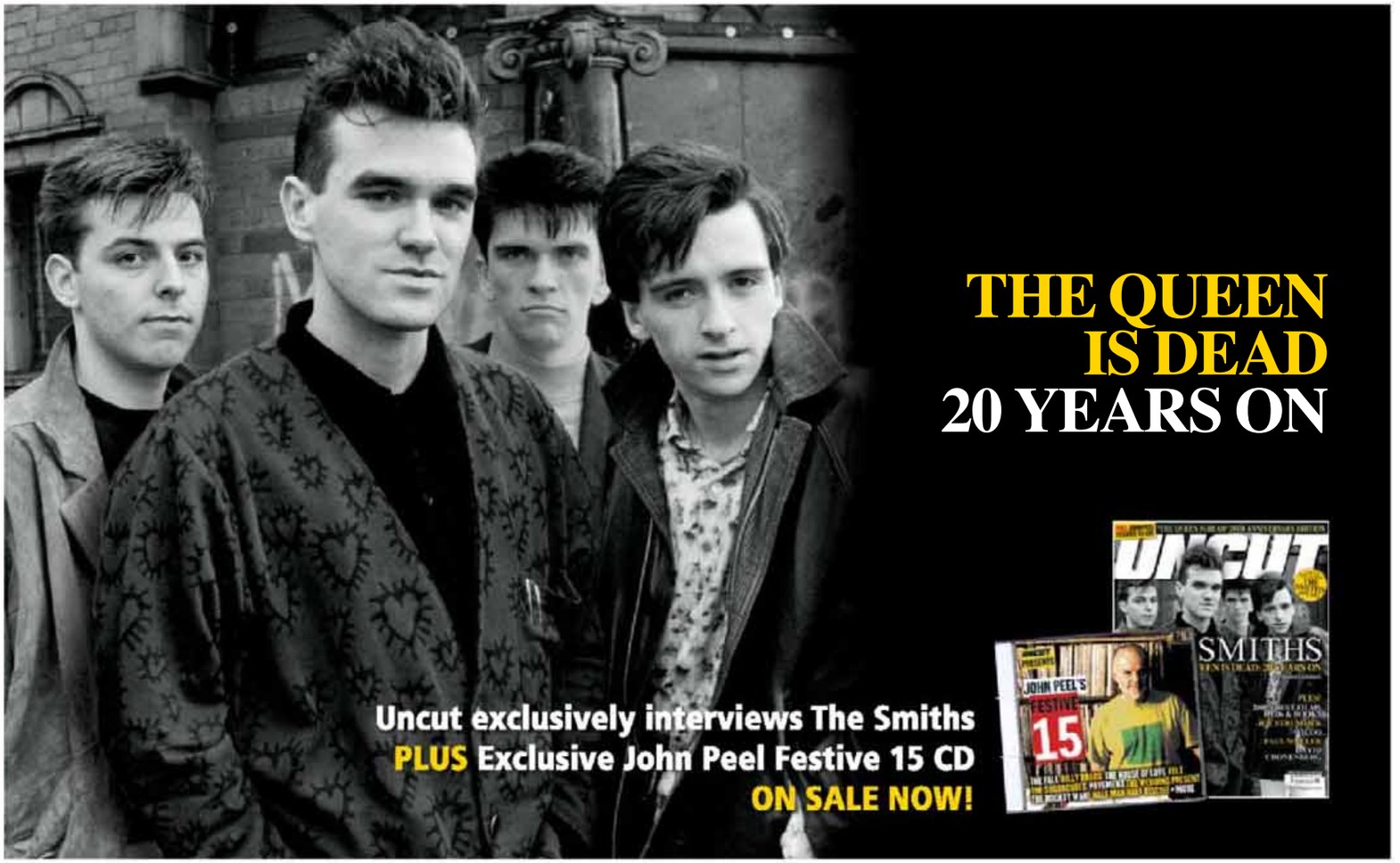

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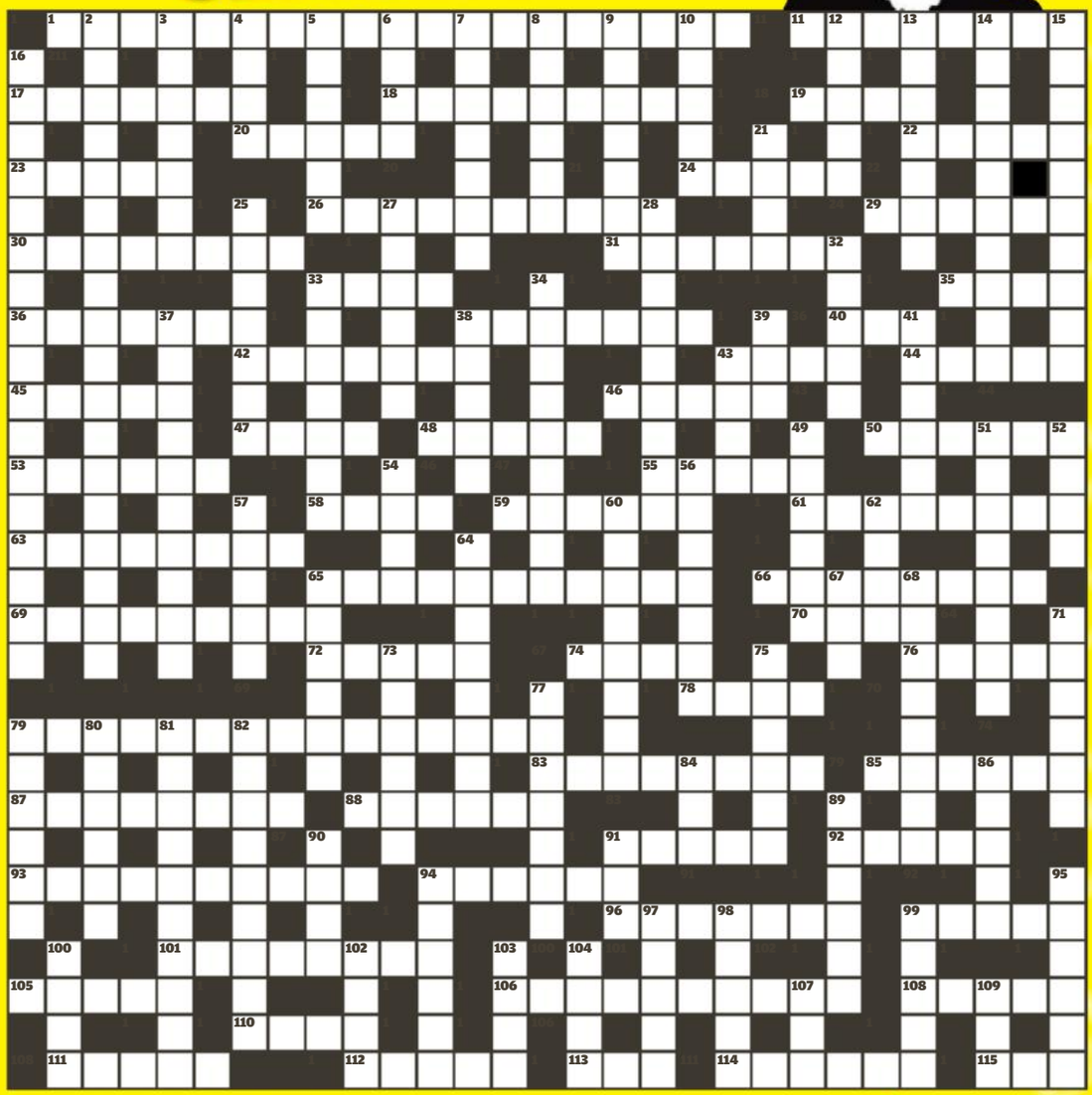
NME GIANT CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Compiled by Santa Hungerford – Ho ho oh (anag)



CLUES ACROSS

1 It's Christmas time, there's no need to be a dad... Devendra Banhart is going to kid himself... (1-4-4-4-1-5)
11+17A ...and also Santa into getting a train set, football, racing game, CD by Antony And The Johnsons (3-5-1-2-1-3)
18 It's that flaming Ian Brown (3-6)
19 The Futureheads' sound coming from near Ealing (4)
20 (See 79 down)
22 So now, perhaps, it's an album by Prefab Sprout (5)
23 '24 Hours From ____', big hit for Gene Pitney in the '60s (5)
24 (See 64 down)
26 Cartoon character namechecked on Jonathan Richman hit (10)
29 (See 6 down)
30 "*So here we are reinventing the wheel/I'm shaking hands with a hurricane*", 2005 (8)
31+74A VHS Or Beta – in the dark about the burning issues (5-2-4)
33+25D Nine Black Alps refuse to get intimate (4-7)
35 Johnny ___ And The Pirates who were 'Shakin' All Over' in 1960 (4)
36 Lets Lee do remixing for British R&B star (7)
38 Band with the line-up of Pott, Willetts, Wanstall and Roberts (7)
40 In 1996 these Glaswegians became the first unsigned band to appear on *Top Of The Pops* (3)
42 (See 48 across)
43 Black Rebel Motorcycle Club making a terrible noise (4)
44 Strangely shine as one of The Paddingtons (5)
45 Felix Da Housecat has part of an inherent weakness (5)
46 No mad return to be made with Blur (5)
47+38D "*Her shadow is always with her/Her shadow could always keep her small*", 1997 (4-1-4)
48+42A Crumbs! Game in disarray as band appear (5-7)
50 Group that first went 'Hand In Glove' to Rough Trade in 1983 (6)
53 (See 99 down)
55 I'm taking nothing in; I'm making a comeback with Black Sabbath (5)
58+91A Bass acted very strangely in recording by The Mars Volta (4-5)
59 Happy Mondays put their foot down regarding this release (4-2)
61 (See 93 across)
63 (See 106 across)
65 Band from the Bermuda Triangle? (7-4)
66+90D "*I looked to the sky where an elephant's eye was looking at me from a bubblegum tree*", 1967 and 1984 (4-2-2-4)
69 "*This Indian summer I signed my life away/There's a _____ in here*", 1997 (6-3)
70 ___ Lofgren, he was originally with Neil Young's Crazy Horse (4)
72 (See 102 down)
74 (See 31 across)
76 A sort of change for someone in The Loft (5)
78 (See 94 down)
79+37D "*They sold the rights to all the wrongs, and when they knew you'd give me songs, 'Welcome back' I said*", 2004 (4-6-2-3-6-4)
83+87A "*Life is bigger, it's bigger than you, and you are not me*", 1991 (6-2-8)
85 Lancashire town which gets first mention in the 1991 hit 'It's Grim Up North' (6)
87 (See 83 across)
88 Bob Marley's only Number One album came with this 'Best Of' collection in 1984 (6)
91 (See 58 across)
92+113A Taped by Mark Eitzel – as any CDs will be broken (5-3)
93+61A They've been making their way recently through 'Siberia' (4-3-3-8)
94 Herman is crazy to join Test Icicles (6)
96 Be a Muse convert from Silverchair (5-2)
99 MOBO award winner for Best Album and Best Rhythm & Blues Act in 2001 (5)
101 "*Everybody sees me but it's not that easy/Standing in the light field, waiting for some action*", 2005 (8)
105 Country rockers who've been 'Kicking Television: Live In Chicago' (5)
106+63A The nightmare may have been there in black and white, but Bill Nelson wanted to know more (2-3-5-2-6)
108 Member of Nine Black Alps will be appearing in the disco henceforth (5)
110 "*Hey wait, great smile, sensitive to faith not denial, but hey, who's on trial?*", 2005 (4)
111 (See 84 down)
112 So ELO reworked this Therapy? number (5)
113 (See 92 across)
114 Writer of the soundtrack to the 1989 movie *Batman* (6)
115 You'll get the name of this band in a flash (3)

CLUES DOWN

2 "*Shock shock, horror horror, shock shock, horror*", 1996 (6-2-3-7)
3 'Dry Kids' is a recent album collection of their B-sides (7)
4 Rapper born Shawn Carter in New York, 1969 (3-1)
5 "*Don't you _____, don't you _____/Sing it loud and clear, I'll always be waiting for you*", 2000 (6)
6+29A A time when the output was not so great resulted in Orange Juice's last hit single (4-6)
7 This lot should be put in the dock I'll, er, suggest (7)
8 "*Are you from round here? How do you do?*", 2005 (6)
9+34D Hey! Me in the charts, perhaps, could be just like Oasis (7-9)
10 Gary _____, drummer with The Walker Brothers and possible Yorkshire connection (5)
12+97D Blur, Seal go around together with an old Status Quo record (2-3-5)
13 Had rest disturbed by Skin performance (7)
14 This should have been the ruin of Ryan Adams (10)
15 (See 80 down)
16 Carl Barât mucks up an old '60s group (5-6-6)
21 Death In Vegas number that was the beginning of 16 down (4)
25 (See 33 across)
27 'The _____ To Why I Hate You' from the band in question, Symposium (6)
28 The Dead 60s having no control over the airwaves (4-5)
32 Someone with special status in British Sea Power (5)
33 Sleater-Kinney attempt to get off the ground with this rather woolly sounding release (7)
34 (See 9 down)
37 (See 79 across)
38 (See 47 across)
39+49D US country singer who sailed the 'Sea Of Heartbreak' (3-6)
41 Has *NME* been upset by a dance act? (6)
43 Member of Sigur Ròs is into alcohol maybe (4)
49 (See 39 down)
51 He fronts Editors (3-5)
52 "*Colder, crying over her shoulder/Hold her, tell her everything's gonna be fine*", 2001 (4)
54 Not surprisingly they went for a 'Drive' (4)
56+73D Made a move to get nearer to the sound of Linkin Park (3-4-6)
57 Billy of The Cult or Martin of Primal Scream (5)
60 Depeche Mode have given us a highly valuable performance (8)
62 One turn to the left with Oasis (4)
64+24A Playtime instruction while attempting a jazz music style with Sparks (3-2-3-5)
65 Getting very personal with Armand Van Helden (2-2-2)
67 Californians who started the fire (3)
68 And then, having finished my standing ovation for Hal... (1-3-4)
71 Roy Orbison and kd lang's emotional duet (6)
73 (See 56 down)
75 New Yorkers whose meaty sound came 'Off The Bone' (6)
77 Such elder statesmen include an Arctic Monkey (7)
79+20A US singer who won a Grammy Award for a partnership with Bruce Springsteen in 2003, the year he died (6-5)
80+15D "*The television man is crazy, saying we're juvenile delinquent wrecks/Oh man, who needs TV when I got T Rex*", 1972 (3-3-5-5)
81 Hit for Jimmy Dean in 1961, the forerunner of the TV ad tune 'Little Tiny Bill' (3-3-4)
82 "*Depressed and down-hearted, I took to _____ ____/I'm doing fine up here on _____*", 1969 (5-4)
84+111A This wasn't a solo venture by Bernard Butler (3-5)
86 Her hits during the late punk era included 'I Want To Be Free' (5)
89 'The _____', Siouxsie And The Banshees in full voice for this album (6)
90 (See 66 across)
91 They accompanied Suzanne Vega to 'Tom's Diner' in 1990 (1-1-1)
94+78A OK ma! Rap mix is terrible by this band (6-4)
95 Boring-sounding Aussies who advise 'Wait Long By The River And The Bodies Of Your Enemies Will Float By' (6)
97 (See 12 down)
98 Trips arranged for Adam And The Ants' performance (5)
99+53A US country-rockers who would tune up cello terribly (5-6)
100 Production duo involved in litigation (4)
102+72A "*A newsflash came and then it said '_____ was just found dead'*", 2003 (4-5)
103 Hoped generally to include a bit of U2 (4)
104 "*I waited for a thousand years for you to come and blow me out my mind*", 2005 (4)
107 If a comeback is made by act that can 'Sing The Sorrow' (3)
109 Three-quarters of a half for this act (3)

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ANSWERS FROM NOVEMBER 12 ISSUE

Across: 1+9D For Screening Purposes Only, 9 Paddingtons, 10 MIA, 11+14D Ring The Bells, 12+29A Venus In Furs, 13 Debaser, 17 Sky, 18 Gill, 19 Hollies, 20+22D Shatter/Tender, 23 Gas, 24 Nugent, 25 Club, 27 Clash, 28 Yesterday.

Down: 2+26D Ordinary Boys, 3+7D Spitting Games, 4 Ragged Glory, 6 It's On, 8 Pain, 15 Spiral, 16 Rust, 19+5D Highly Evolved, 21 Argos, 25 Chef, 27 Can.

THE RECOMMENDER

Music and more to check out

This week: Kaiser Chiefs

WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO RIGHT NOW

1 AC/DC
Back In Black
"It's our number one song to get us going in the dressing room."

2 Sherbet
Howzat
"We heard it in Australia and it was a huge hit. They're from the '70s."

3 Queen
Brighton Rock
"It's the weirdest song to start an album with ever. It's got about a hundred solos and about 20 breakdowns."

4 Pantera
Walk
"Never settle for less than metal."

5 Metallica
Enter Sandman
"When you're on tour, you need something to get you going. Coldplay doesn't cut it."

6 The Who
5.15
"We used to go to a mod club that played it."

7 David Bowie
Heroes
"It makes you want to take on the world and run naked in the streets."

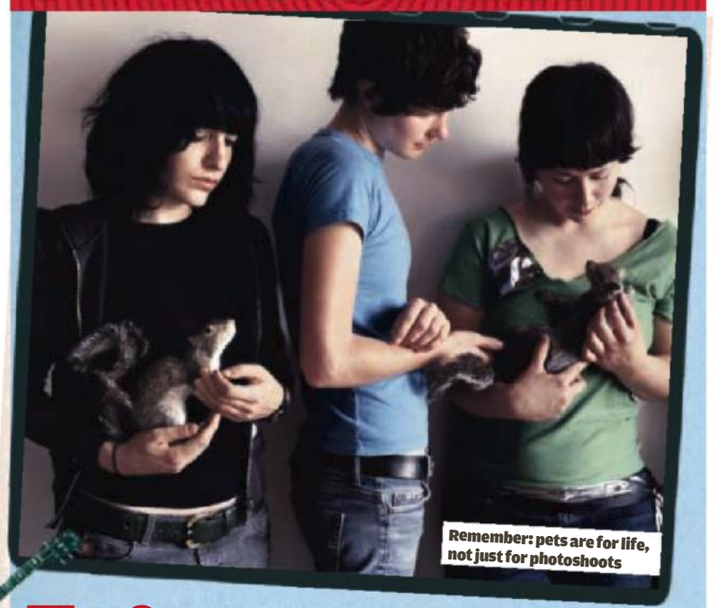
8 The Cribs
We Can No Longer Treat You
"It gives us a real chill. Brilliant."

9 The Beatles
Everybody's Got Something To Hide Except Me And My Monkey
"It's from the 'White Album' and it's great."

10 The Emperors
Implement
"It's the first track on their demo and it blew our minds."

WORDS: ALICIA BRODERSON/ANDY WILLSHER

OUR FAVOURITE BANDS



Remember: pets are for life, not just for photoshoots

The Organ

Nick: "[Their 2004 debut] 'Grab That Gun' is a brilliant album. We did gigs in America earlier on in the year and they supported us. They're five girls from Vancouver in Canada and they sound like The Cure with Debbie Harry on vocals – their songs are extremely good. Onstage they're amazing – the lead singer's got short hair and she's kind of a tom-boy, she stands still and doesn't do anything but they're still completely captivating."

The Sugars

Ricky: "We haven't actually heard them, but they've got to be brilliant because Matt's in them."
Nick: "I love [frontman] Matt. He's a friend of ours from Leeds – he DJs at Move On Up at the HiFi Club in Leeds."

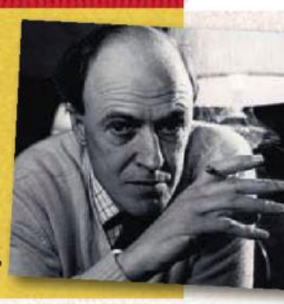
The Emperors

Nick: "You know how everyone sounds like this synth-y, indie thing now? Well, it's like that, but more progressive. I can't remember where I got their CD. Maybe they'll read this and get in touch!"

OUR BIGGEST INFLUENCE

Roald Dahl

Nick: "Our lyrics are often inspired by Roald Dahl. His words conjure up the most fantastic images. They describe things in a unique way where suddenly you realise exactly what he's on about – like with snozzcumbers from *The BFG*. I've brought *Danny The Champion Of The World* to read while we're on tour in Australia."



A GUILTY PLEASURE

Genesis & Billy Joel

Nick: "Genesis, 'Invisible Touch'. It's got good songs. It reminds me of a family holiday."
Ricky: "'Innocent Man' by Billy Joel. I like that a lot. Although it's just not very cool, is it?"

OTHER STUFF

TV Seinfeld
Nick: "If you added all the characters together and mixed them up and stuck them in tight jeans and a tight T-shirt, then that's what I am."

BOOK Bamboo, by William Boyd
Nick: "The chapters are completely separate and it's all very short so you can dip in and out, which is good if you're on the road."

DVD Tintin box-set
Ricky: "Out of all the characters in *Tintin*, I think I like Tintin the most. Why? Because he's about the same age as me and he's sexy."

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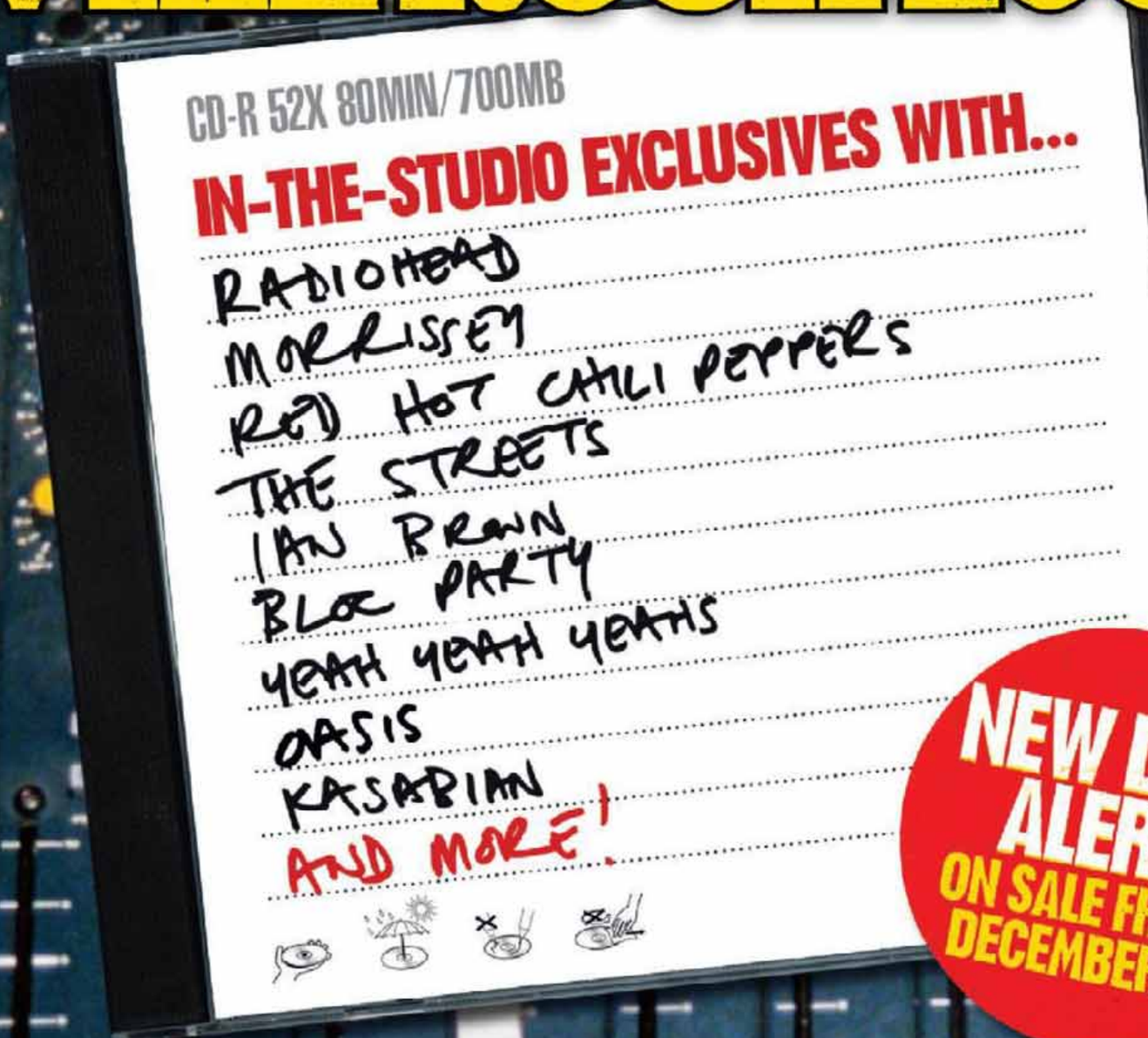

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